

Russia upbeat over MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, thanking him for his invitation to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October and stressing his country's interest in participation. President Yeltsin said Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, intends to have a high-level participation in the summit, as well as in all efforts designed to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. The Russian president expressed conviction that the summit will constitute an important landmark on the path of reaching the long-sought peace in this region. The decisions to be adopted at the summit will contribute effectively to creating effective structures aimed to convert the region into a region for real peace and genuine cooperation, President Yeltsin said. He added that the establishment of a large-scale partnership to develop the Middle East and establish economic and social cooperation will have a positive impact on arriving at comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

Volume 19 Number 5993

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية - الرأي

Israeli policeman injured by Gaza bomb

GAZA CITY (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded near an Israeli patrol in the southern Gaza Strip Sunday. One Israeli soldier was hospitalized, suffering from shock. The bomb went off around 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) at the Morag junction between the towns of Khan Yunis and Rafah, the army spokesman's office said. There were no other injuries or damage, the army said. Tracks from the bomb site led to a nearby house, from which shots were fired at Israeli troops last week, the army said. No group claimed responsibility for the bomb. The army decided to keep the Gaza Strip closed off from Israel for a fifth day, military officials said. The closure of checkpoints between the Gaza Strip and Israel was imposed at 1 a.m. Thursday to try to prevent attacks from militants if an accord was signed to spread autonomy over the West Bank. The measure will remain in force until dawn Monday.

Soames arrives

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames arrived in Amman Sunday for talks with Jordanian officials over the situation in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Soames, whose visit here is part of a four-leg Middle East tour that includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, was also expected to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Soames said he was "carrying a personal message from Prime Minister John Major to King Hussein concerning the situation in Iraq and Bosnia." He declined to elaborate.

"Events in Bosnia have reached a defining moment," he said. "There are a number of opportunities and dangers ahead and it is important to discuss them with countries in the region."

He declined to comment on the defection of Hussein Kamel Hassan, a close confidant of President Saddam Hussein who defected from Iraq along with his brother, family and escorts.

Mr. Soames is scheduled to meet with King Hussein before his departure Monday. "He hinted that the United Kingdom would defend Jordan in the event of Iraqi retaliation," Great Britain's record speaks for itself," said Mr. Soames.

Jordan maintains more than 3,200 peacekeepers in the U.S. force in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Soames, who was appointed to his current position in July and has been a Conservative member of parliament since 1983, is accompanied on his visit to the Kingdom by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wartan.

Sir William commanded the British air force in the 1991 Gulf war that drove Iraq

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King, Saudi envoy discuss bilateral ties, latest events

High Riyadh official pays first visit to Jordan after Gulf crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday met with a high-ranking Saudi envoy paying the first such visit to Jordan after the Gulf crisis and discussed bilateral relations and the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Colonel Kamel Al Hassan.

It will be Mr. Kabariti's second trip to Riyadh in a month and reflects the improvement in relations, which is expected to be capped by the nomination soon of a Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Riyadh recalled its envoy from Amman in 1991 in protest against what it saw as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis and declined to approve a replacement for the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia when the diplomat's tenure ended. Early this year, however, the Saudi government accepted a Jordanian ambassador, but has not named a new ambassador to Amman.

The Saudi envoy, who was received by the King on Sunday, was described by the sources as a leading member of the Saudi royal family. One source identified the envoy as Prince Turki Al Faisal, but it could not be immediately confirmed. According to the sources,

the King and the Saudi envoy reviewed Jordanian-Saudi relations and the sudden twist in the Middle East situation brought in by the defection of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry and minerals, along with his wife Raghad, President Saddam's eldest daughter, and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, and his wife Rana, the second daughter of the Iraqi president. Jordan has given them asylum (see separate stories).

Closer details of the discussions were not immediately available. Jordan has improved its relations with Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. Kabariti told a Kuwaiti newspaper last week that he expected ties with Kuwait to also improve soon.

A report that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah called Mr. Kabariti over the phone on Sunday could not be immediately confirmed.

Opposition deputies say Jordan should not be a base for Iraqi opposition

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday welcomed Jordan's move to grant asylum to the Iraqi president's son-in-laws and their families but criticised what they saw as the Kingdom's agreement to grant the Iraqi opposition the ground to launch their operations against another "brotherly" Arab country.

The House is expected to convene today in a special session to discuss the Jordanian move.

Several deputies, interviewed by the Jordan Times on Sunday, lauded the Kingdom's hospitality for Arab asylum-seekers but strongly criticised and expressed astonishment at "what followed later."

Opposition deputies warned of "serious consequences" for the Kingdom if it was used as a base for Iraqi opposition.

"Jordan has been always known for its hospitality," the head of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, Abdullah Nsour, told the Jordan Times. "But Jordan has never been known to have interfered in other countries' internal affairs. It has never been involved in terrorist attacks or military coup d'etats."

Mr. Alayani added that Gen. Hassan had often travelled to the United States, Europe and China in the 1980s to buy weapons.

After Hussein Kamel fled, several MIO officials said this traitor had ordered them to bide important information from UNSCOM on Iraq's past weapons programmes.

A key aide and cousin to President Saddam meanwhile pledged his family's loyalty to the Iraqi leader and called for the death of Gen. Hassan.

Gen. Al Hassan Al Majid, a cousin of Gen. Hassan, said the Majid family had "disowned" the defector.

Iraq's state-run media also said the vast majority of Iraqis remained loyal to President Saddam while it announced the government's plans to fight corruption and treason.

"The sacrifice of his blood and his life is (Gen. Hassan's) tolerated for his cowardly act and betrayal," Gen. Majid, a top official in the ruling Baath Party and former defence minister, said in a letter published in official newspapers.

Gen. Majid, 52, travelled to Amman last Thursday with President Saddam's oldest son, Uday, after Jordan gave the defectors political asylum.

By taking them (the Iraqis) in and allowing them to operate against another Arab country, Jordan sets a precedent," Dr. Amoush said. "It is an aggression on Jordan's

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A Palestinian wounded by gunfire from Israeli settlers is being carried by other Palestinians at an Israeli settlement on Sunday. The man died of his wounds (AFP photo)

Israeli cabinet adopts redeployment accord

Jewish settlers kill Palestinian

DURA AL OARA (Agencies) — Israel's government approved an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank Sunday, as two weeks of protests by Jewish settlers against the plan turned violent for the first time.

Witnesses said settlers opened fire on Palestinians who ransacked their camp on a rocky West Bank hilltop, killing 22-year-old Kheire Al Qaisi. Settlers denied they caused his death.

Opposition lawmakers, and even some members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ruling coalition, said the accord was too far-reaching and constituted in effect an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a peace negotiator and outspoken dove, maintained the West Bank autonomy was in line with the September 1993 Israel-PLO accord. But he agreed that "although officially there is not going to be a Palestinian state, as far as I can judge the

situation, it is a Palestinian state."

Mr. Sarid said that Israeli and PLO delegations were resuming talks on a detailed accord in Taba, Egypt, Sunday night. Israeli media said the full agreement was expected in early September.

Sunday's shooting was the first serious violence since settlers began their campaign against the West Bank autonomy. The settlers, claiming a withdrawal would put them in danger, are demanding a national referendum on any agreement with the PLO.

Witnesses said about 100 Palestinians from Dura Al Qara village went to a bare hill settlers had squatted on since late last week near Beit El settlement north of Ramallah.

The Palestinians tore down makeshift structures the settlers began their campaign against the West Bank autonomy. The settlers, claiming a withdrawal would put them in danger, are demanding a national referendum on any agreement with the PLO.

(Continued on page 7)

Serbs face new Croat and Muslim offensives

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Fighting broke out on two fronts in Bosnia while diplomats scrambled to forge peace from a new balance of power in the four-year-old war.

Russia and the United States meanwhile met to try to align their peace plans for former Yugoslavia but the fresh combat on the battlefields of Bosnia underlined the difficulties ahead for diplomacy.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake met in the Black Sea resort of Sochi as Bosnian government forces kept up an attack on Serb-held Doolji Vakuf in central Bosnia.

Mr. Lake, visiting Russia as part of a whistle-stop tour of several European countries, made no comments to

border attack Saturday towards the Serb-held town of Trebinje in southern Bosnia.

U.N. spokesman Cbris Vernon in Sarajevo said several thousand Serbs already had left Trebinje.

About 170 kilometres to the north, Bosnian government forces attacked around Donji Vakuf in an offensive that appears aimed at the larger town of Jajce. Its capture would be a big morale boost for the Bosnian army and put it closer to the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka to the north.

"The Bosnian army is making progress," said U.N. spokesman Major Carlos Alonso.

He could not say how much, however. The United Nations said the two offensives were difficult to gauge because its access had been restricted.

Iraq offers to disclose arms secrets to U.N.

Aziz says Hussein Kamel hid data

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ ADMITTED Sunday it had withheld weapons secrets from the United Nations but blamed the decision on a minister who defected to Jordan last week.

It asked Rolf Ekeus, who chairs the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), and Hans Blix, who heads the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to visit Baghdad "urgently" to obtain the information, Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said.

Former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, who fled to Jordan on Tuesday had "hidden important information" to give Washington an excuse to block an end to sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said.

Iraq said it gave Mr. Ekeus early this month a final report on its germ warfare programme, described as the remaining obstacle to a lifting of U.N. sanctions. But Mr. Ekeus said the report was incomplete.

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An opposition member said Iraq suddenly offered to disclose the secrets because it feared General Hassan — had

Jordanian option not yet spelt out, but many see a significant shift

By Natasha Bukhari

THE DEFLECTION to Jordan last week of President Saddam Hussein's two daughters and their husbands, the powerful former Minister of Industry Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Col. Saddam Hassan, has raised the spectre of a new policy being adopted by Jordan vis-a-vis Iraq — a policy whereby neutrality is replaced by active engagement in shaping Iraq's future.

These observers and politicians, in attempting to explain their belief, do not only cite the fact that Gen. Hassan was allowed to hold a press conference at the

Royal Court and to call for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. Some of them even think the deflection was fore-planned and the whole episode engineered in such a way that would inevitably make Jordan change policy vis-a-vis Iraq. There have been attempts by the government to explain the choice of the Palace as the venue for Gen. Hassan to hold his conference and to issue his call for toppling the Baghdad regime.

One was that security considerations lay behind it. Another maintained that it happened because the General is considered to be a personal guest of the King. And the third official line contended that the

press conference was a "one-time" event after which the community around the minister's deflection would die down — and he may even leave town altogether after a short period of stay in Amman.

ANALYSIS

"There are no political dimensions behind (granting the asylum)," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was quoted as saying. "What Iraq is witnessing in terms of events is an internal affair and the Jordanian government has nothing to do with it."

In any case Jordan has been distancing itself for

some time now from the Saddam regime, and what Jordanians really care about is to alleviate the plight of Iraqis, without telling them what to do with their political system and leadership, the official line goes.

But few outside the government seem to accept these explanations. Some opposition figures even fear that Jordan might become the base for a U.S.-backed effort to overthrow the Iraqi regime (see related story on this page).

Politicians and analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times generally believe that there will be a change in Iraq soon and Jordan had better be prepared for that

change. "We cannot be just a bystander. If someone does take a position that serves Iraq, we have to support it," says Senator Kamal Shaer. "Jordan's relations with Iraq have always been governed by three principles," Sen. Shaer maintains.

"They are respect by Iraq for U.N. Security Council resolutions and the charter of the Arab League; the political, economic and social well-being of Iraqis; and the preservation of the national and territorial integrity of Iraq."

"To the extent that these principles are respected, so would our relations with (the Iraqi regime) be," the senator says. "Saddam has

(Continued on page 7)

Iraqi defector may be unwilling to share secrets

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Hussein Kamel Hassan's defection has shaken his father-in-law Saddam Hussein's regime but the former official who holds Iraq's deepest military secrets may not be willing to share them with the West.

Analysts said the lieutenant general, who made a dramatic call on Saturday to Iraqi soldiers and civilians to help overthrow President Saddam, could jeopardise the influence he hopes to maintain at home if he hands over Iraq's carefully-guarded secrets.

"Getting Iraq's deepest secrets might be a tough nut to crack," said Phebe Marr, a senior fellow at the Pentagon's Institute for National Strategic Studies and author of a history of Iraq.

She said General Hassan risked being branded a traitor by military men left to face deteriorating conditions in Iraq and weakening his influence within a potentially significant core of nationalist opposition to President Saddam outside Iraq.

U.S. officials refused to say whether they had been in contact with Gen. Hassan, who arrived on King Hussein's doorstep this week along with his brother, Saddam Kamel Hassan, who was in charge of President Saddam's guards, and their wives, both of whom are President Saddam's daughters.

At a palace press conference in Amman on Saturday, Gen. Hassan sidestepped questions about his contacts with the United States, emphasising that he had been in touch with Iraqi

dissidents inside and outside Iraq.

Although he was treated in Amman in February for what Jordanian officials said was a brain tumour, Gen. Hassan, in his early 50s, appeared fit and brimming with bravado.

Some described the brothers' defection as what was already a shrinking circle of loyalty to President Saddam as possibly the biggest blow to the Iraqi leader's stability since he quelled Kurdish and Shi'ite rebellions after the 1991 Gulf war.

"He's about as close to Saddam as you can get," said one State Department source with long experience of Iraq.

After Saddam's sons, Gen. Hassan, a man with only primary school education but known as an orga-

nisation genius, was perhaps the most important man in the small and secretive circle of power surrounding the Iraqi leader.

Married to President Saddam's daughter Raghad, he built up Iraq's military machine, including its illicit procurement network, established military special forces and the elite Republican Guard and headed reconstruction after the 1991 Gulf war which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"His conversations with U.N. officials could be very important to that," said an administration official, referring to Gen. Hassan's knowledge of the arms programmes.

"We have said all along that Iraq must comply with all Security Council resolutions, particularly the ones

concerning weapons of mass destruction... what new information he can bring to that, I really don't know... we shall see," he said.

U.S. officials and analysts said the former head of military industrialisation, who has led negotiations with U.N. officials dismantling Iraq's weapons programmes, handled the concealment of operations that frustrated efforts to rid Iraq of its deadliest arms after the Gulf war.

"He's the one who maintained the secret programmes for years and he knows how to deceive," said Ms. Marr.

Although they say they are slowly getting the information from other sources, the United Nations believes Iraq is still concealing

information on its biological weapons programme — key reasons for maintaining crippling trade sanctions against Baghdad.

"I'm sure he could be very, very valuable if he wanted to talk, but it's not certain that he will," said one European official who analyses Iraq.

Several Iraq-watchers said Gen. Hassan, who was believed to have serious rifts with President Saddam's son Uday over power and money, was seen as being a relative moderate in President Saddam's circle.

"I always believed he wanted to agree to 706 and 712," said one official, referring to the U.N. resolutions repeatedly rejected by Iraq which would have allowed Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil under international supervision.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudanese army capture town from rebels

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Government troops in southern Sudan have recaptured the town of Kaya, in western Equatoria, from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the armed forces announced Sunday in a communiqué. The statement broadcast on official radio said that government troops at sunset Saturday "liberated the strategic town of Kaya" from the SPLA which control many parts of west Equatoria state. The area straddles the juncture border point of Sudan, Zaire and Uganda. The communiqué did not give a toll of casualties and said government troops were fully committed to "agreements and accords and therefore confined their activities to administrative movements and defending their sites." Upon numerous attacks by the rebels on Bazi garrison (an army post) our troops commenced with the task of crushing the rebels and their henchmen and restored the strategic town of Kaya as a gift to the Sudanese people on the 41st Sudanese army day celebration."

Jailed 'drug queen' turns out to be a man

CAIRO (AFP) — A drug dealer arrested three years ago in the Egyptian capital went into prison classified as a woman and turned out after his sentencing to be a man, the government daily Al Akhbar reported on Saturday. The unnamed man was known as "the queen of the drug dealers" by locals in the Cairo slum of Imbaba where he worked, since they had known him as a girl since childhood. After the dealer's arrest, authorities made the same mistake and put him in a women's prison. But they soon realised he was a man and transferred him to another facility, Al Akhbar said. When released he returned home, mustachioed and wearing men's clothes, to the shock of his neighbours. He explained that he had been forced early on to dress as a woman by his father who regretted never having a daughter, the paper said.

Libya praises U.S. stop to nuclear testing

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya praised on Saturday U.S. President Bill Clinton's commitment to halt all nuclear testing but cast doubt on his ability to uphold the decision, the state news agency JANA reported. "The American commitment constitutes an important support of the international community aiming to put an end to nuclear proliferation and reduce its dangers," JANA said. "But the acts of certain agencies in the American government more powerful than the president lead us to doubt the credibility of his statements," it added. It cited as an example what it called "the secret transfer" in late 1994 of 600 kilograms of radioactive uranium from Kazakhstan to an American nuclear power station. "To make President Clinton's statements credible this uranium must be handed over to the International Atomic Energy Agency," JANA said.

Russian diplomat to visit sick captive

DUBAI (R) — A Sharjah-based Russian air company said on Sunday it was awaiting the outcome of an expected visit to Kandahar by a Russian diplomat to discuss the fate of a seriously ill employee held captive by an Afghan militia. Viktor Riazanov, one of seven airmen held by the Islamic Taliban militia in Afghanistan, has been described as seriously sick by a doctor who visited him. A commander of the militia, which forced the men's Ilyushin 76 plane to land 10 days ago and took the crew captive when they found it was carrying ammunition, has said he would allow Mr. Riazanov to leave if his firm sent a replacement captive. An official from the air company Trans Avia, told Reuters by telephone from Sharjah, one of the United Arab Emirates' seven states, "we are awaiting the (Russian) diplomat's arrival in Kandahar and the outcome of his talks."

Egyptian Coptic leader in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Pope Shenouda III of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church arrived here Saturday for a 12-day visit to South Africa, a statement by the church said. Pope Shenouda was to meet clergy from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Zaire, the statement added. He is also expected to meet President Nelson Mandela, deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and Frederik de Klerk, and various provincial premiers. Pope Shenouda will lay the foundation stone for a church in KwaZulu-Natal province and consecrate churches in Cape Town and in Free State province, the statement said.

New president for Israel's supreme court

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Justice Aharon Barak was sworn in Sunday as the new president of Israel's Supreme Court, bringing to the job a reputation as a strongly independent liberal. The 59-year-old, who was born in Lithuania and emigrated to Israel in 1947, was the Israeli legal adviser in the drawing up of the Camp David peace accord in 1978. He was appointed to the supreme court the same year and served as deputy president from 1993. He set a trend for justices to overrule government decisions. Mr. Barak is expected to introduce judicial review of legislation for the first time in Israel, which some lawyers predict will lead to clashes with parliament. Attorney general from 1975-1978, he takes over from Meir Shamgar who is retiring at the age of 70.

Egyptian 'pirates' loot Philippines boat

CAIRO (AFP) — Six armed Egyptian "pirates" raided a Philippines ship in the Suez Canal and stole 24 television sets, the government daily Al Akhbar reported Sunday. The six thieves boarded the ship at the southern entrance to the canal, 40 kilometres from the port of Suez. They loaded their booties in their own boat and escaped, the paper said. But they were arrested several days later on the Suez-Ismailia road alongside the canal, driving a lorry with stolen goods inside.

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Israel-PLO statement

FOLLOWING IS the text of a joint statement agreed by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel after a week of negotiations on an interim agreement for the spread of autonomy across the West Bank was made public on Sunday.

Points still in dispute are given as (I) Israeli proposals, and (P) Palestinian proposals.

Area A covers rural zones. Area C covers sites to remain under Israeli control.

Joint statement

The Palestinian delegation headed by President Yasser Arafat and the Israeli delegation headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, met in Taha, Egypt, between Aug. 7-11, 1995, and agreed on some of the principles to be elaborated in the Interim Agreement as follows:

1. Area B:

In area B there will be a complete redeployment of Israeli military forces. The Palestinian police shall assume responsibility for public order for Palestinians and shall establish (I: 25) (P: 30) police stations and posts in towns, villages and other places as agreed.

In Area B Israel shall have the overriding responsibility for security for the purpose of protecting Israelis and confronting the threat of terrorism. While the (I: activities) (P: movement) of uniformed Palestinian policemen in Area B outside places where there is a Palestinian police station will be carried out after coordination and confirmation, three months after the completion of redeployment from Area B, the DCOs (District Coordination and Cooperation Offices) may decide that movement of Palestinian policemen from the police stations in Area B to Palestinian towns traffic will take place after notifying the DCO.

These procedures will be reviewed within six months.

2. Further redeployments:

The further redeployments of Israeli military forces to specified military locations will be gradually implemented in accord-

Hammad, Khatib promise better bridge facilities



Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and the Sheikh Hussein bridge across the Jordan River (Petra photo)

temporary solution pending the construction of appropriate facilities.

Mr. Khatib said these essential services will be provided as soon as possible, especially in view of the growing influx of tourists to the Kingdom in the wake of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

The Minister also said that he will contact the Ministry of Public Works in order to build the required shelters to provide protection from the sun as a

bridge, the minister said, that efforts are being exerted on daily basis to improve the services for the visitors, adding that the ministry of tourism was determined to address various shortages and deal with all the problems.

The two ministers first called at the King Hussein Bridge where baggage facilities and air conditioned

halls have been provided. Work is underway for the construction of an additional hall for arrivals, a project that is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The Prince Mohammad Bridge is solely used for trucks transporting West Bank and Gaza goods to Jordan and other Arab countries.

Ciller seeks to boost economic ties with C. Asia

ANKARA (AFP) — When the Soviet Union crumbled in 1991, Ankara rushed in to establish ties with its Central Asian and Azerbaijani cousins, fuelling fears — or hopes for some — of a pan-Turkish creation.

5. Revenues:

The Israeli side will transfer tax revenues to the Palestinian side upon the signing of the interim agreement.

6. Joint committee:

A joint Israeli-Palestinian-American committee will be formed to deal with (1) economic issues, (2) water production and (3) political coordination.

7. The Palestinian Covenant:

Two months after the inauguration of the Palestinian Council, the Palestinian covenant will be amended in accordance with the letter of Chairman Arafat to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, dated Sept. 9, 1993.

She takes with her a team of 50 businessmen, her energy minister and other officials on a five-day tour.

"We are planning to develop our relations with

Central Asia, to progress rapidly," said Nurettin Nurkan, a foreign ministry spokesman.

Turkish cooperation with the newly independent states dropped somewhat last year after initial credits, investments and trade worth more than two billion dollars were launched in 1992.

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, the biggest and most economically viable of the group, got up to 250 million dollars each, the heaviest share of credits from Turkey's Export and Import Bank (EximBank). Less than \$200 million went to the smaller Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.

But most of the countries used up or received less than half their allocations by last spring, and trade with Turkey in 1994 was disappointing.

Not only were the new states to blame, with their tight bureaucracy, slow debt servicing and poor in

frasturture, but Turkey also went through its own crisis in 1994 as its currency plunged and austerity measures were imposed.

"There was indeed a lot of euphoria at the beginning," a western diplomat said.

"Turkey tried to do a lot

at first, but Central Asia is very isolated and doesn't have the resources, so there has had to be a change in expectations," said the diplomat, requesting anonymity.

Ankara has scaled down its ambitions, relying more on its private sector after an initial government thrust to secure influence ahead of Iran and to match Russia's power. Iran borders Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

At the time, the late president, Turgut Ozal, announced: "The 21st Century will be Turkish."

And his prime minister, now President Suleyman Demirel, spoke of "Turkish world stretching from the Adriatic to the Great Wall of China."

But in the meantime Russia has proven to be as present as ever, providing machinery and much of the infrastructure to the new republics, all members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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Taiwan shows off air power as thousands demand reunification

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan showed off its air force Sunday in a bid to boost public confidence amid right-wing protests and a newspaper report that China is planning a third military drill of the kind that prompted the current crisis.

Thousands of right-wing protesters marched through the capital demanding reunification with the mainland from which the island split in 1949. Some called for President Lee Teng-Hui to resign.

Just days after China announced a second round of missile drills set for this week off Taiwan's north coast, the Taiwan military made sure its celebrations of Air Force Day, which falls Aug. 14, were widely broadcast on TV and radio.

Some 50,000 civilians gathered at the Chingchuan-gang air base in the central city of Taichung to witness demonstrations of battle tactics and flying stunts and inspect hardware, the air force headquarters said.

"Like the government's investment rescue package, to boost the plumping stock market, the air show was more or less intended to increase public confidence," said Hu Fu, professor of political science at National Taiwan University.

On Thursday, China announced it would follow its week-long drills in July with a series of missile tests from Aug. 15-25 off Taiwan, sending

the local stock exchange into free fall.

As the stock market index dropped more than 200 points Friday, the government announced a string of measures to channel money into the bourse to stabilise it.

On Sunday the United Evening News, quoting an unnamed official, said China would hold a third round of military manoeuvres next month.

The official, a member of the Mainland Affairs Council which sets policy towards China, did not say whether the new drill would involve missiles or give exact dates.

But he noted that the council had accurately predicted the second round of missile tests before China announced it Thursday.

The council believes both the officially-announced missile drills are aimed at ruining President Lee's chances of re-election in elections scheduled for next March.

"The Chinese communists do not want Lee to be reelected next year because they think Lee is leading the pro-independence trend in Taiwan," said Mr. Hu.

He said that by beefing up its military presence and shaking the stock exchange in the hope that business people and other locals here will put pressure on Mr. Lee.

That effect was apparently felt Sunday as the thousands of anti-independence supporters marched down Taipei's

Ties with Washington have

been seriously strained over the Taiwanese President's visit to the United States in June and China's detention of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu.

Beijing has sharply criticised Washington for allowing Mr. Lee's private trip, claiming it was a violation of U.S. policy to only recognise one China. Washington has reaffirmed its one-China policy in a bid to reassure Beijing.

China resumed nuclear testing May 15 provoking worldwide protests. Japan and other nations have been closely watching whether Beijing planned to conduct more tests.

Mr. Jiang said that China did not plan to stop tests until a global treaty banning nuclear blasts goes into effect.

The Asahi Shimbun quoted the Chinese leader as saying Beijing "will stop (nuclear tests) after the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) goes into effect."

The CTBT is now being negotiated for possible conclusion in 1996.

Mr. Jiang told the Japanese daily China's nuclear tests are not targetted at, or are meant to threaten, any country.

He also said that China would not renounce the use of force against Taiwan, claiming that such a pledge would prevent the island's peaceful reunification with the mainland.

China blasts U.S.

In another development, Chinese President Jiang Zemin attacked the United States saying Washington was to blame for strained bilateral ties and said Beijing would not stop nuclear testing, a Japanese daily reported on Sunday.

In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, Mr. Jiang said that the "full blame (for deteriorating ties) lay with the United States."

Ties with Washington have

Seoul resumes rice aid to N. Korea after release of ship

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea resumed rice shipments to the rival North on Sunday after Pyongyang released a Southern rice-aid ship and its crew following three days of talks in Beijing. South Korean officials said.

Officials from the two countries were also meeting to set a schedule for a new round of rice talks which when first held last June marked the first official bilateral contact since the death of the North's leader Kim Il-Sung in July 1994.

"The two sides are meeting to set a date for the third round of rice talks. We hope to resume contact with the North," said an official at the Unification Ministry here.

He said Kim Hyung-Ki, assistant minister for information, and analysis, would remain in Beijing for a few more days.

The Stalinist North released the 9,400-tonne ship and its 21 crew on Sunday morning after Mr. Kim reached an agreement with the North late on Saturday.

The ministry spokesman said the Samsun Venus would reach the southeastern port of Pohang around 3 p.m. (0600 GMT) on Monday.

After the release was made, South Korea resumed rice shipments to the North which were halted because of the incident.

The 11,365-tonne freighter and its 21-member crew were

expected to arrive at North Korea's Nampo Port on Tuesday, said an official at the Korea Maritime and Port Authority.

The Samsun Venus was held by the North after Pyongyang said a sailor, Lee Yang-Chon, took photographs of Chongjin Port, where the ship had docked to unload 5,000 tonnes of free rice.

South Korea expressed regret over the incident and assured the North it would not happen again. Seoul also agreed to resume rice aid to the North as earlier scheduled.

"Then the North will bring up the subject of Park Yong-Gil," the ministry official said.

Ms. Park is widow of Moon Ik-Hwan, one of the South's best known dissidents.

Pyongyang has warned if South Korea prosecuted Ms. Park, it would have an irreparable effect on relations between the two Koreas, still technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict.

South Korean officials hope the rice talks would lead to regular high-level talks to discuss detente on the divided Korean Peninsula.

He spoke Friday in Pudu, 350 kilometres northwest of Kuala Lumpur in response to reporters' questions about recent Fortune magazine report headed "Asia-corruption."

The magazine rated corruption in Asia on a 1-10 scale, placing China and Indonesia at the top with 7.31, followed by India at 7, the Philippines at 6.59, Thailand with 5.88 Malaysia with 4.64.

He spoke Friday in Pudu, 350 kilometres northwest of Kuala Lumpur in response to reporters' questions about recent Fortune magazine report headed "Asia-corruption."

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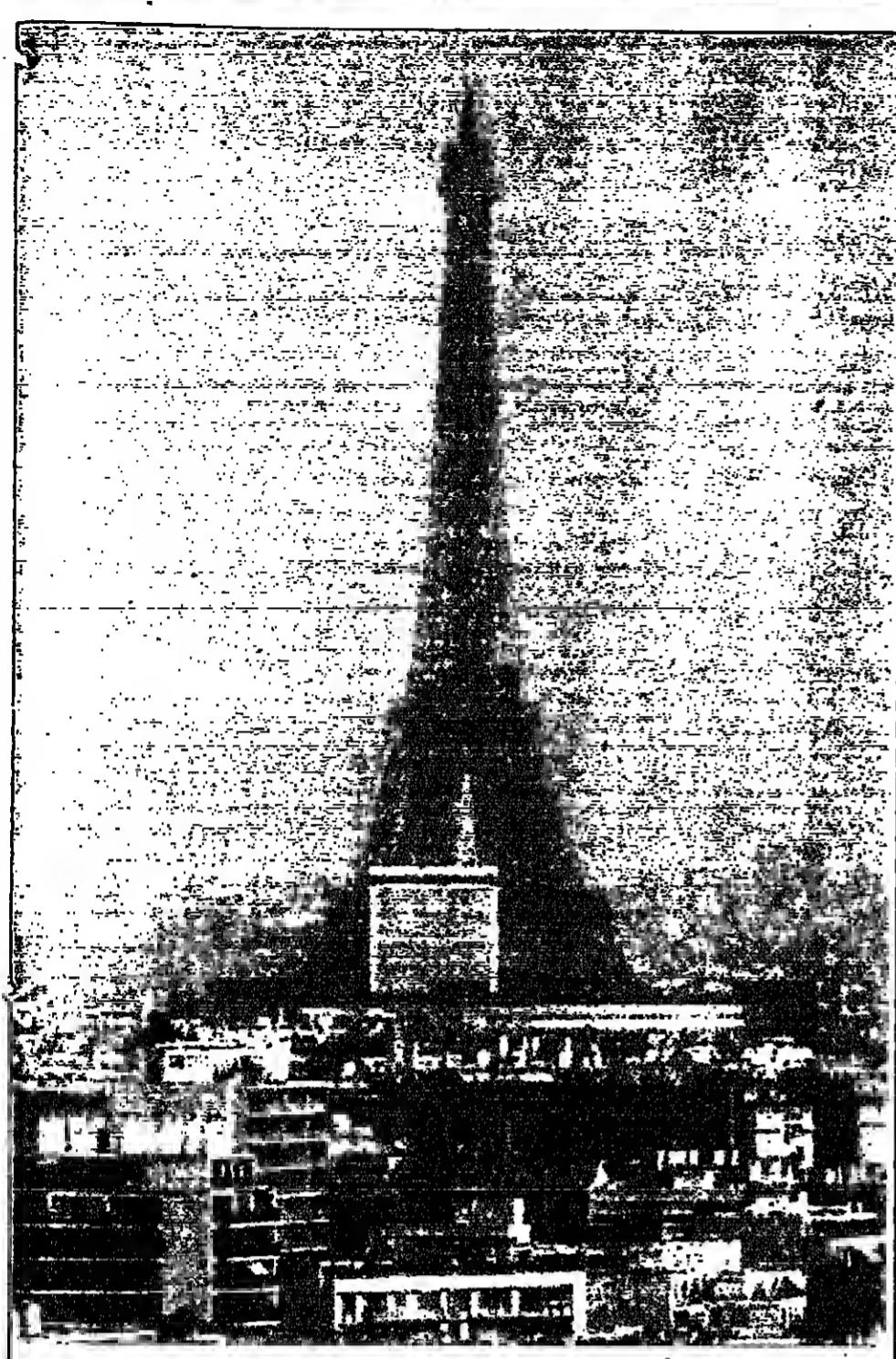
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POLLUTION ALERT: The Eiffel Tower basks in atmospheric pollution at mid-day Saturday. Automobile emissions reacting with high temperatures and strong sunlight for several weeks again pushed the level of ozone into the danger zone, and a "Level-2" alert was broadcast for the capital region by authorities (AFP photo)

Ivorian president says controversial election code to remain in force

ABIDJAN (R) — President Henri Konan Bedie, on a charm offensive in Muslim regions of Ivory Coast ahead of elections starting in October, has said a disputed electoral code is here to stay.

Mr. Bedie ended a trip to mainly Muslim towns in the west on Saturday with a speech denouncing attacks on the code by his rivals, including Muslim ex-Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara.

"The electoral code is simply the strict application of the constitution," Mr. Bedie said in the western town of Mankono.

"The electoral code in force is a case which is closed for the whole nation, a closed case which is in fact an ardent obligation for the citizens of our country," he added.

He did not, however, explicitly rule out minor changes.

State television broadcast Bedie's comments on Saturday after his return to the business capital Abidjan.

The outgoing parliament, where Mr. Bedie's Democratic Party has an overwhelm-

ing majority, approved the code in December.

Critics say it was conceived to stop Mr. Ouattara standing.

Mr. Ouattara himself describes the code as "foolish" and says it rules him out of the Oct. 22 presidential election.

A Washington-based deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he lost a brief tussle with Mr. Bedie to succeed veteran President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

Mr. Bedie, national assembly speaker when Mr. Houphouet-Boigny died in 1989, took over under the terms of the constitution.

Mr. Bedie, who will be formally chosen as his party's candidate in two weeks, is anxious to become elected president.

If Mr. Ouattara does not stand, his main rival will be veteran opposition politician Laurent Abagbo of the left-leaning Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), who lost to Mr. Houphouet-Boigny in 1990 in the country's first multi-party

presidential election.

Mr. Bedie support groups have mushroomed across the country. State television regularly features reports on them.

Mr. Bedie himself has been touring Ivory Coast explaining his government's policies, outlining benefits for the country and individual regions and pledging to look at grievances.

He has repeatedly stressed the need for social harmony if the country is to enjoy the fruits of an economic recovery taking shape after the January 1994 evaluation of the CFA franc used in much of Francophone Africa.

Ivory Coast, which is slipping into recession in the late 1980s, predicts growth of over six per cent in 1995.

In Mankono on Saturday, Mr. Bedie said the electoral code had been thoroughly debated and democratically approved and urged his listeners to resist or ignore what he called the "intellectually dishonest" campaign against it.

Europeans continue beating up on France over nuclear tests

PARIS (AP) — Denmark's Royal Theatre cancelled a Paris tour set for next month and Spanish demonstrators heckled two French naval ships Saturday to protest France's plans to resume nuclear tests.

It was the latest in a firestorm of opposition to President Jacques Chirac's plans to resume underground nuclear tests from French Polynesian Atolls in the South Pacific after signing a permanent test ban next year.

A growing number of countries have slapped France with economic boycotts, hoping to force it to scrap its plans to conduct seven or eight more blasts.

The director of the Danish Royal Theatre, Michael Mortensen, said Saturday he spiced the tour of opera and ballet events after consulting with the party of Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. The Danish premier rode a bicycle from Copenhagen to Paris earlier this month to protest France's test plans.

Charles de Gaulle, who brought France into the atomic age in 1960, authorised 30 test explosions.

Zaire fed up with Rwandan refugees

KINSHASA (AFP) — Zaire's growing irritation with the more than one million Rwandan refugees camped in the rich eastern province of Kivu boiled over this week when the authorities here blamed the murder of six Italian tourists on a refugee gang.

The protesters said in a statement that they feared new nuclear tests could destabilise the Atolls, "which already contain radioactivity equivalent to many times that which was released during the catastrophe of Chernobyl."

France has been testing nuclear weapons in the South Pacific for more than 30 years. By far the greatest number of tests came under Mr. Chirac's predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, who authorised 86 explosions during his 14-year term before he announced a moratorium in 1992.

If more attention had been paid to the likely repercussions on regional security of the prolonged presence of the refugees, such incidents as Sunday's slayings could not have happened, the spokesman said.

There are about 720,000 refugees of the Hutu tribe in the Goma camps and about 350,000 in camps near Buka-

Russia gets tough in Chechen peace talks 'Chechens foil attempt to assassinate Dudayev'

GROZNY (R) — Two Russian ministers joined peace talks in breakaway Chechnya Sunday, threatening to take a tough line with the rebels who they accused of ignoring a military deal.

Chechen rebels alleged they had foiled an attempt to assassinate separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, saying the Russians were trying to upset the peace process.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov flew to the southern region Saturday to help Nationalist Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and other Russian delegates push forward implementation of a military deal reached two weeks ago.

The Russian side intends to take a tough position, because the fulfilment of the agreement by supporters of rebel leader Dzhokhar

Dudayev is so far negligible," Mr. Kulikov said on his way into talks in the regional capital Grozny.

The deal, meant to provide for the disarmament of the rebels in return for a partial withdrawal of Russian forces sent to Chechnya in December, has so far had little practical effect.

Chechen rebels, pushed to the mountains of southern Russia in six months of fighting, have treated it as a victory while largely refusing to give up their arms.

Taking advantage of a shaky ceasefire, they now ride past Russian checkpoints on the lowlands of the tiny region cocking a snook at frustrated troops.

In what appeared to be more of an attempt to appease than frustration than a real

threat to restart the conflict, Mr. Kulikov said the rebels would have to disarm.

"If the Chechen side insists that the regular army of the republic does not disarm, we will unilaterally continue to disarm Mr. Dudayev's illegal armed formations by force," he told ITAR-TASS agency Saturday evening.

Chechen rebels alleged they had foiled an attempt to assassinate their president who unilaterally declared Chechnya independent in 1991 and is now on the run from the Russians in the mountains of the north Caucasus region.

Hamad Kurbanov, who says he is Mr. Dudayev's personal representative in the Russian Federation, told reporters his Japanese jeep had been loaded with a huge re-

mote control bomb in anticipation of an upcoming meeting with the rebel leader.

Chechen fighters showed reporters the dark blue vehicle. Under each of the seats were what appeared to be plastic-type explosives with sticks sticking out.

They also showed electrical devices which they say would have enabled Russian special service agents to track the vehicle from a helicopter and detonate it upon demand.

"We had information through our secret service that the vehicle was loaded with explosive equipment. It was also obvious from the fact that wherever I drove it, helicopters followed behind me," said Mr. Kurbanov.

Russian delegates to the talks in Grozny were not immediately available for comment on the allegations.

confiscated Aug. 4 by Russian military officials at a checkpoint in Roshni-Chu, 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny, as he travelled to peace talks in the Chechen capital.

Three days later, he said, it was returned to him by Russian officials outside the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) where the talks are held.

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Murayama: Letter to Major was no apology

TOKYO (R) — A row over Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's feelings about Japan's World War II actions came full circle on Sunday when officials revealed he used the word "apology" in a letter to British Prime Minister John Major.

After a weekend of high emotion on the issue, the Japanese foreign ministry broke with tradition because of the furore and said publicly for the first time that the private letter to Mr. Major did include the word "apology."

"We normally do not disclose what is in a private letter," a foreign ministry official said.

The dispute, only two days before the 50th anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender, flared when the Japanese leader said Saturday

day the letter he sent to Mr. Major was not meant as an apology as described by British government officials.

The comment set off anger and confusion among British war veterans who had already been dismissive of reports that the letter expressed only "remorse and regret" for the treatment of prisoners of war.

While debate raged in Britain about what Mr. Murayama's letter meant, the issue passed with little controversy in the Japanese media which gave only brief reports on the fact that Mr. Murayama had written to Mr. Major, and mentioned

John Major.

A foreign ministry official said the letter to Mr. Major, primarily intended to congratulate the British prime minister on his election as

leader of the Conservative Party, was sent in Japanese, accompanied by an English translation.

"The translation included the word "apology" to express Japan's feelings," the official told Reuters.

"The true meaning of the prime minister's comments has failed to be properly communicated," the official added.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Major's office said Friday that the letter expressed only "profound remorse for Japan's actions in a certain period of the past which caused such unbearable suffering and sorrow for so many people."

But Mr. Major's Downing Street office, which had hailed the letter as the first official written apology by a Japanese prime minister, was

vague about what it actually meant.

But a spokeswoman is

added: "The word apology is

the word "apology" to express Japan's feelings," the official told Reuters.

Mr. Murayama — while acknowledging the letter had expressed profound remorse over Japanese treatment of British and other allied POWs — told reporters that the letter had not been meant as an apology.

The letter was designed mainly to congratulate the re-election of Mr. Major as chief of the Conservative Party.

The foreign ministry official said the reference to the war in the letter — which his ministry had helped draft — was a repetition of what Japan's then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told Mr. Major when he visited Tokyo in September 1993.

But no government leader has ever publicly apologized for past misdeeds, an act that would anger right-wing activists as violating the honour of individual soldiers who fought in the war.

55 neo-Nazis jailed for a week

BERLIN (AP) — A judge ordered 55 neo-Nazis jailed for one week after police foiled the skinheads' attempts to mark the eighth anniversary of the death of Hitler deputy Rudolf Hess, authorities said Sunday.

He says he is willing to stand but that the code's requirement of five years continuous residence before an election prevents him. He says he is not prepared to break the law, adding that he can stand only if the code is amended.

The code has split the Muslim community, who make up about 10 per cent of the population of over 13 million. Some groups have denounced it, others have rallied to the government.

Critics also oppose its nationality clauses. Candidates must be Ivoirian by birth of Ivoirian parents. They also demand an independent electoral commission to run the elections.

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India's Rao plans another reshuffle to close ranks

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is likely to reshuffle his cabinet in coming weeks to try to patch up his fractured Congress Party before next year's polls, government officials and analysts said Sunday.

The neo-Nazi youths were rounded up by police as they tried to converge Saturday on a former East German army training ground in Frankenber, 160 kilometres south of Berlin, for a banned rally.

It would be the third reshuffle this year in a continuing effort by Mr. Rao to keep rebellious party cadres in line.

But Mr. Rao's options appear to have narrowed, with some senior party leaders virtually defying his authority, they said.

Home (interior) Minister Shankarrao Chavan, a confidant of Mr. Rao, has urged Congress members by attending a birthday celebration in his honour thrown by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ally Shiv Sena in Bombay.

At least four cabinet ministers complained publicly that Mr. Chavan mixed with right-wing Hindu parties which areitching to throw Congress out of power and are considered antagonistic towards Muslims, a traditional Congress vote bank.

Chavan should not have gone to attend the function. It has greatly damaged the party," Rajesh Pilot, second in command at the home ministry, told the Asian Age newspaper.

More sophisticated extremists use cellular phones and computer bulletin board systems to organize.

During Hess action week last year, neo-Nazis crossed the border into Luxembourg and rallied outside the German embassy, where about 100 were arrested and deported.

In fact, the attempt to get people to return home to Rwanda of their own volition has turned out to be a fiasco, with never more than about 450 a week deciding to move.

Any volunteers for repatriation face fierce intimidation from the Interahamwe, brutal militiamen behind the worst of last year's massacres of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates in Rwanda in which at least 500,000 people perished.

They said the neo-Nazis offered no resistance.

The skinheads were all from the eastern state of Saxon — from Dresden, Bautzen and Chemnitz — and a large number of them have a history of criminal activity ranging from assault to displaying illegal Nazi symbols.

"We have killed the hostage because the government has failed to accept our demands," said the note left by the Al Faran militants, which ordered India to release 15 jailed rebels. India has refused.

Mr. Ostro's remains were found in Seet, a village in the

cabinet after the four-week monsoon session of parliament, set to end Aug. 25.

Pran Chopra, of the Centre for Policy Research, said any reshuffle would probably be limited

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة يومية باللغة الإنجليزية الصادرة عن مؤسسة الأردن للطباعة والتوزيع

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 6701414

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Refugee away from politics

THE DEFECTION of Iraqi Minister of Industry General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his entourage to Jordan has attracted, and rightly so, immense political interest, here in Jordan, in Iraq itself and throughout the world. This is not the first time, however, that an important Arab national seeks refuge in another Arab country and probably will not be the last. In the absence of sufficient democratic institutions in the Arab World, many discontented officials rightly or wrongly resort to defection as a means of addressing their grievances whether genuine or not. What is needed, therefore, is a new understanding whereby the receiving state does not pay a price for granting asylum-seekers refuge within its borders, as indeed international law requires it to.

Within the Arab framework especially, an Arab state that serves as host to refugees often becomes a suspect in the eyes of the country from which the asylum seekers come. Politicising the granting of a refugee status, though, should not be the ultimate consideration on the part of the affected countries. A generally satisfactory solution can be easily found if the whole issue of asylum is viewed in a strictly legal manner and away from the spotlight of politics. In the case of Gen. Hassan Jordan has neither asked for his defection nor encouraged him to come here. Jordanians were caught by surprise by the event just as much as the Iraqis were.

The latest episode in inter-Arab politics should make us reflect on the need to articulate a precise policy on refugee seekers and to apply it uniformly on all concerned people in an indiscriminate manner. The Arab World cannot follow double standards in this vein and must be consistent and fair under all circumstances. We cannot surrender some refugee seekers or accept others in an arbitrary manner. Otherwise our countries will continue to suffer from the state of mutual fears and suspicions that we have had to live with for many years now.

Above all we must agree on a code of conduct under which acts of refugee taking or giving are not used for political purposes. The granting of asylum or refugee status to any person is a strictly humanitarian issue that should remain so at all times.

With regard to Iraq in particular, the fallout from the defection of members of President Saddam's own family could have serious repercussions on Iraq's quest for easing the international sanctions. We do have a vested interest to promote the lifting of those sanctions and as a matter of fact Jordan has been trying its best to attain this objective out of concern for the Iraqi people who have suffered enough. It would thus be most unfortunate if Tuesday's defection was allowed to be used as another reason for prolonging the Iraqi people's torment and suffering.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN DOES not see any justification for tension in relations with Iraq while Baghdad feels the same way and has openly declared its stand in the wake of the escape of a prominent Iraqi minister to the Kingdom, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tareq Aziz has denied Western reports about alleged massing of Iraqi military forces near the border with Jordan and mocked at the rumours which he said are designed to ruin relations between the two Arab states, said the writer. The American media's attempt to stir trouble in the area, the writer said, is designed to justify the American stand with regard to the continued sanctions on Baghdad. The writer said that there can be no danger posed to Jordan from Iraq but that the real danger lies in the American policies and Washington's persistence on harming the Iraqi people with total disregard to humanitarian considerations. It is true that the situation in Iraq is very difficult and people are facing hardships, but this is all because of the continuation of the embargo and the Western nations' drive to destroy the Iraqi people, added the writer. He said Jordan can by no means strain its relations with Iraq as it has no interest in doing so and it is clear that Iraq has the same feeling towards the Kingdom.

BACKING a call by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi for the creation of a public society to care for the archaeological and historical sites in the Amman region, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that this is a very essential step required to help safeguard the national heritage. Nazih suggested that the Amman Municipality allocate JD 200,000 annually from its own budget for the purchase of old homes that bear the traditional architectural style as a first step towards achieving the aspired goal.

Human Rights File

Israeli practices weakening cause of peace

AS WE continue to amend our laws so that they reflect faithfully our commitment under the peace treaty with Israel, we notice that the Rabin government is not doing the same to the extent necessary. A prime example of this incomplete translation of the peace accord between the two sides is the Israeli law entitled "the Implementation of the peace treaty between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 1995." Article 6 (A) and (B) of this new legislation purports to reinterpret what constitutes an "absentee property" in the light of the new peaceful relations between the two countries. While this provision stipulates that as of Nov. 10, 1994, Jordanians can own or purchase real-estate within Israel and the West Bank and that any such property will no longer be construed as absentee property, it continues to regard all real estates owned by Jordanians prior to that date as absentee properties. Not only within Israel proper but also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

This is an untenable position as indeed our ambassador to Israel, Dr. Marwan Muasher, has recently told Al Quds Arabic daily newspaper in East Jerusalem, and can never be accepted by Jordanians. The retention of this provision as it is currently interpreted by the concerned Israeli authorities especially the director of the absentee Properties Department, would make a mockery of the new relationship between the two countries and is a cause for alarm as it suggests that the Israeli government is not truly faithful to what it has agreed to with Jordan.

How can properties in the West Bank owned by

Jordanians continue to be regarded as absentee lands or houses when we have in place a peace treaty that has supposedly erased all residues of hostility between the two parties. We all thought that we are opening a new chapter in the Israeli-Jordanian relations based on full recognition of each other's rights and duties and the cancellation of all the legal effects of the past era. This is the normal course of action whenever two states agree to end their state of war and replace it with a comprehensive peace treaty.

I therefore, hope that the Rabin government will show greater sensitivity to this Jordanian concern and change the relevant article in the law accordingly. Allowing Jordanians who have real-estate with a status of absentee properties the right to institute legal actions on the individual level to remove this status does not solve the problem. Instead of individual or even-class legal actions, the Israeli law itself needs to be changed so that the objectionable state be rectified automatically. Meanwhile, we should put on hold the current plans to amend our legislation that pertaining to the rights of Israelis to own properties in Jordan pending the resolution of this sour point. I suggest, therefore, that the two sides should form a committee for this purpose with a view to synchronising what Jordan is doing with what Israel is not doing to translate the peace treaty into reality.

In this context, I certainly make a distinction between Jordan properties situated within Israel proper and those which exist in East Jerusalem and the parts of the West Bank. The former category of properties will be the subject of negotiations at the third stage of the Israeli-Palestinian

peace talks when the final status of the Palestinian refugees of 1947-48 would be hopefully determined. Israel is on record as not agreeing to the return of thousands of Palestinian-Arabs into areas within its borders but is not on record as being against their compensation. According to the relevant U.N. resolutions, these early waves of Palestinian refugees should exercise a choice between repatriation to their original homes and cities or towns or accept just and equitable compensation.

Whether the final resolution of this particular thorny subject would be made on the basis of international legitimacy or on the basis of the third and final stage negotiations should not have a bearing on the properties of Jordanians situated in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank. These territories form a distinct and a separate issue from similar properties situated within Israel itself. The West Bank has never been formally or informally annexed by Israel. East Jerusalem also remains a territory subject to future negotiations even though Israel purported to annex it in spite of the objections and non-recognition of the international community.

I believe there is still time to rectify this serious omission in the new Israeli legislation that aims to implement the peace treaty with Jordan. The Jordanian ambassador in Israel has already signalled awareness of this problem and expressed total rejection of it. Hopefully, the Israeli side would accept its immediate rectification to avoid further exacerbation of the issue.

By Waleed Sa'di

Way out from a dead end

CROATIAN victory in the Krajina could lead to ethnic cooperation, says Martin Woollacott, if the U.N. prevents a refugee exodus and helps the exiles to return

the Bosnian Serbs be able to forget about the Croats while pouncing on the Muslims, or vice versa. It is also true that the Serbs now have a more compact territory and that the addition to Ratko Mladić's general reserve of the regular elements of the Krajina forces makes up a big strike force. So the Serbs are both weaker and stronger, but nevertheless much more on the defensive than before.

The entry of the regular forces of Serbia into the equation would abruptly change this. But Slobodan Milošević is not in the same situation as his old adversary, Franjo Tuđman. For Tuđman, going to war is the key to political dominance, giving him an unassailable lead over domestic opponents, ensuring victory in the next election.

For Milošević, not going to war is the key. His status in Serbia rests on his claim that he can keep the country out of trouble and out of a real war. That does not mean that he will not continue to push supplies and men over the borders, and that he may even increase them. But there are very clear limits to this cover support.

Croatia and Bosnia are allies, an agreement on full military cooperation having been signed only a few weeks ago. There is no reason why the Croatian forces should not at least go on to free completely the Bihać pocket, defeating the forces of the rogue Muslim leader, Fikret Abdić. They could go further. The extent of Croatian-Bosnian military and political cooperation in the future is one of the important decisions that touch on the central

ethnic question: Are we merely going to have a victory over the Serbs, or are we going to have some kind of victory over ethnic chauvinism as well? It would be silly to say that the first is not worthwhile without the second, but how much better to have both.

Just as important as the objective change in the military situation is the psychological change. It is difficult to over-emphasise how much the rebel Serbs have depended in their self-dramatisation on their success in war. High above the Adriatic, where the signs offering "Zimmer, Chambres, Rooms" swing in the breeze outside the shuttered pensions, the lands of the rebel Serbs begin, stretching hundreds of kilometres to the borders with Serbia proper. It is, in the main, poor country, made the poorer by its isolation from the prosperous coast and from most of the main industrial zones of central Bosnia.

Of the pre-war population of 1.6 million in the two rebel republics, nearly half has left. The only industry worth the name is military. The principal male occupation is that of soldier. The towns are dismal, their factories at a standstill. Agriculture, deprived of fuel and fertiliser, has reverted to a state of the horse and the ox. This is the crippled realm into which

the tanks of the Croatian Army burst this weekend, puncturing the myth that, somehow, Serbian military prowess could make up for all these other deficiencies. It is symptomatic that within a few hours of the Croatian attack, the leadership of the Bosnian Serb republic was embroiled in a crisis that would be comic if it did not involve some of the most brutal men in the Balkans. Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić were at each other's throats at a moment of maximum danger for their people and for what they say is their cause. Nothing could better illustrate the truth that without military success the Serbs of Bosnia and Croatia have nothing — nothing that is, except fear and guilt.

We can see in these quarrels the hand of Mr. Milošević who appears to be using Mr. Mladić to try to unseat Mr. Karadžić, blaming the latter for the Krajina disasters, even though Mr. Mladić is undoubtedly more responsible for the failure there.

Mr. Milošević's continual manipulation of the men he brought to power in the Serb rebel lands is only the latest indication of the utter cynicism with which he has behaved throughout. The Krajina Republic, of which

we already speak in the past tense, was in reality simply an exulsion of Serbian power into Croatian terri-

Before that issue is tackled, however, the outside powers face another test. The U.N. could not bring about a wholesale return of the refugees to the Krajina. But it could try to halt the flight of those who remain, and it could organise the return of some who have already gone. Here the agencies will be caught between the Croats, some of whose extremists want no Serbs at all, and the Bosnian Serbs, half welcoming the reinforcements of men of military age that the Krajina fugitives represent.

The record is not good. The U.N. deployed in early 1992 to demilitarise Serb-held areas and to help 200,000 Croats return.

There was no demilitarisation — and no returns. This

time it could be different, and it is worth saying that even if the numbers who stay or return are small, the effect can be large. Word gets back, perceptions change.

In Western Slavonia, taken by the Croats earlier this year, the few Serbs who remain speak of correct behaviour in the daytime, of threats and harassment at night.

Croatia is now triumphant but it is very open to pressure, in every area from continued arms supplies to its aspirations to join the EU. Surely the exodus of Serbs does not have to be accepted as a wholly irreversible fait accompli.

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Syria to boost olive output by 50%

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria is launching an agricultural plan to increase olive production by around 50 per cent over the next five years, an agriculture ministry official has said.

Hassan Katana, chief of planting, said his ministry was planning to reduce 680,000 tonnes of olives in the year 2000 from 435,000 tonnes in 1995 by expanding the area planted.

Olive plantation was mainly in the hands of the private sector which receives free guidance from the ministry, he said.

He did not disclose the cost of the plan but said the scheme would increase the number of olive trees from 53.7 million to 63 million. The ministry will provide olive saplings at symbolic prices to farmers.

The private sector is allowed to sell its production of olives and olive oil locally. It was allowed to export olive oil in 1993 when a surplus was achieved.

He said the increase would allow Syria, whose citizens are among the biggest olive oil consumers in the world, to boost its exports of olive oil.

Syria became self-sufficient in olive production in 1992 when it produced around 400,000 tonnes. Annual consumption is estimated at about the same amount. In 1993 Syria exported 30,000 tonnes of olive oil.

Syria's production this year dropped to 435,000 tonnes of olives from 510,000 in 1994. Mr. Katana said.

A surplus of 20,000 tonnes of olive oil was ready for export.

World Bank soon to try 'micro loans' to globe's poorest

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, in an initiative that blends business and development, soon will provide funds for "micro-loans" to the earth's poorest people, primarily women, officials said Sunday.

Donor nations, banks and institutions have pledged \$200 million for the micro-loans. Three-fourths of it will go to institutions that lend mainly to women. About \$30 million has been collected so far. Disbursement will begin in two or three months.

By aiming at the poorest segments of society, a focus on women was inevitable, Mohini Malhotra, administrator of the programme, said in an interview Thursday with Reuters.

"The poorest, landless, most destitute heads of households are women," she said, and they also face many obstacles to gaining credit. Property rights favour men and many times, a man is required to co-sign a loan that goes to a woman.

Nonetheless, poor women have a stellar record in repaying loans. Aid officials also note that women's income goes to activities that promote family welfare, such as education, better diets and health care.

"We see this as a new model" for development programmes, Ms. Malhotra said, by encouraging lenders to reach a segment now often unable to get loans.

"We're really looking at transforming the way financial institutions work," she said, describing the projected as marrying "development and business, charity and sustainability. These aren't tradeoffs."

and banks that have a record in lending to the very poor.

Mohammad Yunis, president of the Grameen Bank in Pakistan, which works with two million poor borrowers, will chair a panel of expert advisers to CGAP.

"This is the most significant event in the world of micro-finance. This is a beginning to a new future," he said.

In a report on a similar topic, the International Food Policy Research Institute,

based in Washington, said women were "an untapped source of productivity gains" in food output in developing nations.

"If women were given the same resources as men, developing countries would see significant increases in agricultural productivity," the authors of the report,

"Women: The Key to Food Security," said. They cited lack of access to credit as one of the inhibiting factors.

Low oil prices depress Arab income in 1994

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab oil export earnings fell by nearly 5.5 per cent in 1994 due to a drop in crude prices caused by excess output by several producers, according to an official Arab report.

The income of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), which controls 60 percent of the world's crude, stood at \$82.4 billion in 1994 compared to \$87.2 billion in 1993. OAPEC said in its 1994 annual report published in the Paris-based Arab Oil and Gas magazine.

The 1994 figure is the lowest since 1989, when OAPEC's revenues plunged to \$76.5 billion, said the magazine, obtained here Sunday.

Earnings also increased in Egypt, Bahrain and Algeria and declined in Syria, Qatar and Tunisia. Iraq, which produces around 500,000 b/d for local consumption because of

crisis, prices surged to nearly \$40, pushing Arab oil earnings to a seven-year high of \$96.5 billion.

The report showed Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) suffered most from the price fall, with their revenue dropping to \$38.3 billion and \$11 billion in 1994 from \$41.3 billion and \$13.5 billion respectively.

Libya, another key OAPEC member, also saw its revenues shrink to \$6.9 billion from \$7.6 billion.

Kuwait's earnings increased to \$10.2 billion from \$9.5 billion due to a rise in its production to two million barrels per day (b/d) from around 1.8 million b/d in 1993.

The erosion of the U.S. dollar, the official currency for oil prices, over the past two decades sharply depressed the organisation's income in real terms, according to the report. The 1994 revenue of \$82.4 billion is equivalent to only \$29.8 billion at the 1973 dollar value.

U.S. indicators suggest moderate inflation, growth

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The latest U.S. economic indicators suggest that Federal Reserve (Fed) efforts to counter inflation without bringing about recession are showing signs of success, analysts have said.

The Labour Department has announced that consumer prices had risen by 0.2 per cent in July, in line with predictions.

The latest figure was "very good" even if the rate was picking up, according to Dennis Smith, an economist at the Conference Board, a New York institute.

The core rate, which excludes food and energy, was up by 0.2 per cent in July.

Over the first seven months of the year, consumer prices increased at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent, compared to 2.7 per cent over the same period last year, the Labour Department said.

But the steady price production index for July, due mainly to a drop in energy prices, shows that inflation is well under control, Mr. Smith added.

Economist Donald Rataczak of the University of Georgia said that the weakness of raw material prices for July was a good sign of

people's confidences," he said.

The official added that the economy still had potential to recover on the back of steady domestic demand such as corporate capital investment.

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This followed a yearlong period, between February 1994 and 1995, when it raised rates seven times amid fears the economy was overheating.

Excluding autos, retail sales were up 0.4 per cent in July, unchanged from June's figure, a sign that consumer demand — the main engine for economic growth in the United States — remained steady. Mr. Rataczak said.

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Iran deflects effects of U.S. oil trade ban

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran has minimised the impact of a U.S. trade ban by finding alternative markets for its crude oil in Europe, Asia and South America, an Iranian oil source said Sunday.

"We have had a general policy of trying to diversify our customers and only a few months after the ban was imposed we have been successful to a large extent in lowering the effects of the embargo," the source told Reuters.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has done its best to seek other markets in countries such as South Asia, Europe and South America. The feedback has been good," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source would not say how much crude Iran had sold or planned to sell to those markets.

U.S. companies lifted an estimated 600,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude oil, worth about \$4 billion a year, before President Bill Clinton's ban on U.S. firms trading with Iran took effect in June.

Dealers estimate that Iran has sold around 30 per cent of the oil previously bought by U.S. firms to Mediterranean customers in extra spot sales.

The Iranian source said Tehran's ability to maintain crude oil prices underscored the failure of the U.S. embargo.

"We have been successful in selling our crude oil and keeping its price almost intact and competitive. This shows that NIOC has been able to tolerate the situation," the sources said.

Washington accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons, charges repeatedly denied by Tehran.

The trade ban has pushed Iran, the second largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), to increasingly resort to the international shipping market.

The source said the efforts to offset the U.S. trade ban was reflected in the fact that Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co. (NITC) has ordered new tankers from South Korea and other countries and accelerated chartering activity.

Japanese government sees bright, dark signs in stalled economy

TOKYO (R) — The latest economic data may be ridged with gloomy indicators but Japan's government, anxious to find something positive to say, has taken heart from recent falls in the yen and rises in stock prices.

"Japan's economy is still at a standstill but there are both bright and dark indicators," the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in its monthly report.

The report represents the government's official assessment of the economy. It is the second month in a row the government has admitted economic recovery is at a standstill. Previously it had asserted the economy was still recovering, albeit moderately.

"It's a tug-of-war situation," an EPA official told reporters.

"Although the real situation shows factors that could undermine the economy, recent good signs in currencies and stocks may brighten people's confidences," he said.

The official added that the economy still had potential to recover on the back of steady domestic demand such as corporate capital investment.

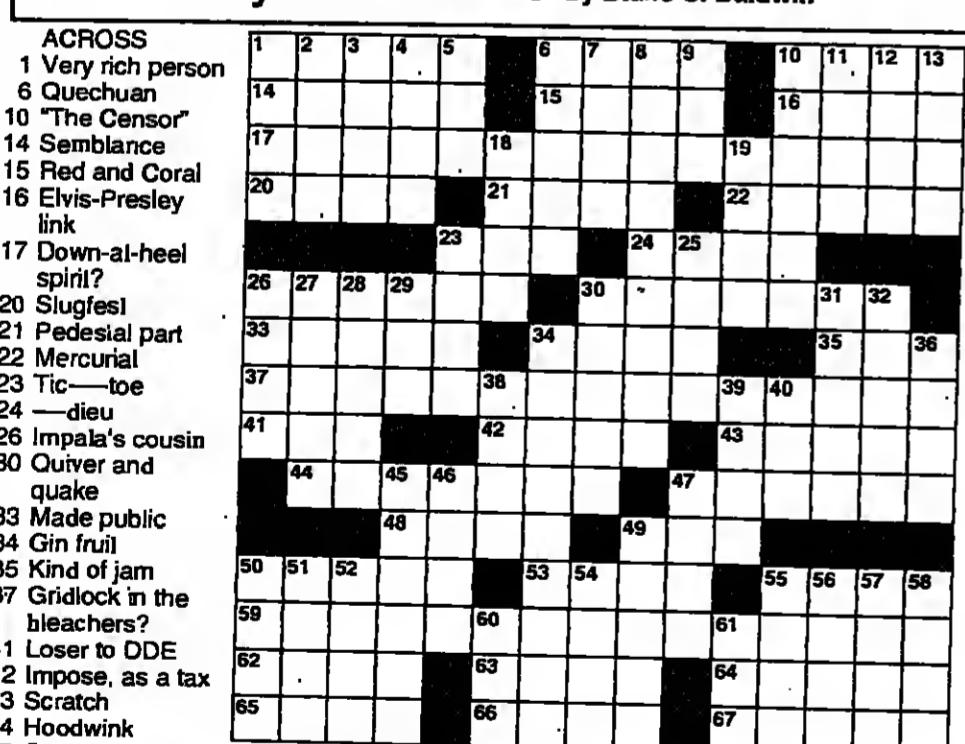
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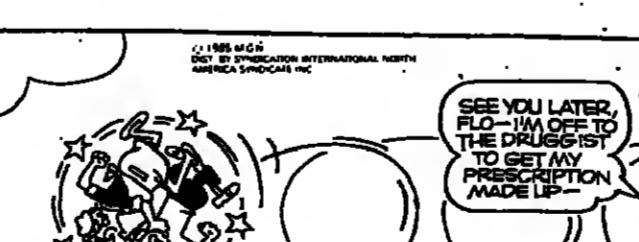
THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



Yesterday's puzzle solved:



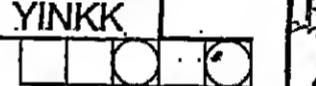
Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YINKK



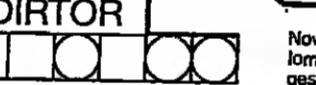
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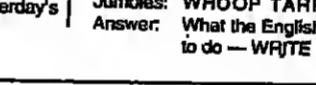
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GANDOR



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DIRTOR



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

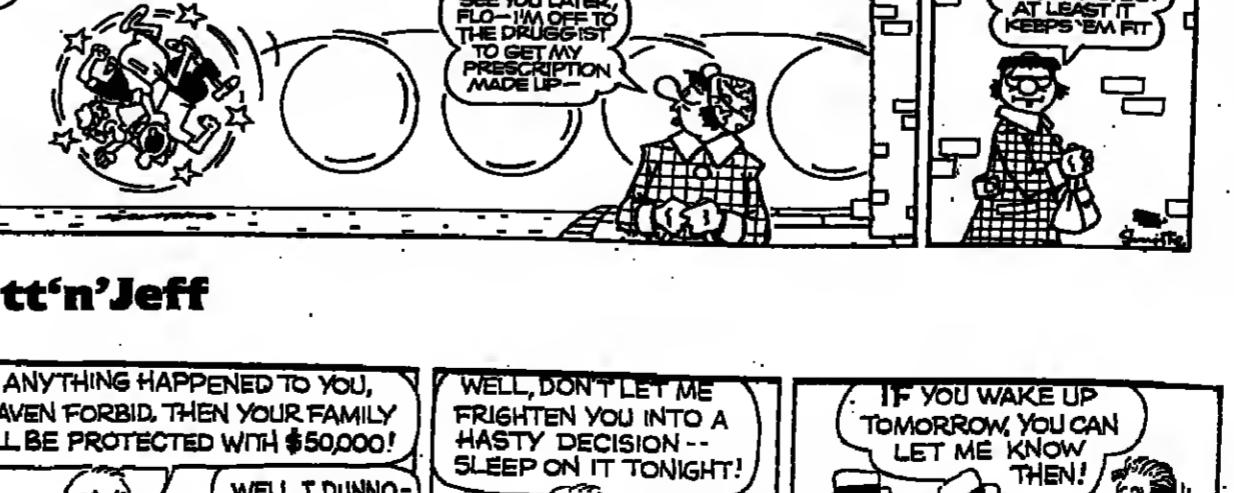
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHOOP TARRY ALIGHT INVERT

Answer: What the English teacher wanted her class to do — WRITE RIGHT



Andy Capp



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in Washington, where were "an unique source of productivity for food output in develop-

If women were given more resources as men, significant increases in men's productivity, authors of the report said. "The key to men's access to credit is the inhibiting factor."

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business
Daily
beatA review
of economic news
from the Arabic pressConsumer
protection
society sees
unfairness in
income, sales
taxes

THE NATIONAL Society for the Consumers Protection is demanding that sole proprietors be given a 50 per cent exemption of their earnings from the income tax, similar to the percentage given to public and private sector employees. Moreover, the society demanded in a memorandum sent to the speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament, that the ceiling under this exemption be raised from JD 7,200 to JD 12,000 annually. The society also called in its memorandum to deduct fees paid to schools, from the taxable net income of a person, up to a ceiling of JD 500.

The memorandum said that both the sales tax and income tax provided some relief to the poor limited-income class of the society but, on the other hand, provided the better off class with larger benefits. As such, the memorandum added, the burden was shifted to the middle class which, under these laws, will erode and slide to the poor class (Al Ra'i).

THE NEW 1995 telephone directory for Amman will be on sale to the public in Arabic and English next week after being checked by the Telecommunications Corporation which has already received the first Arabic copy. The directory will be printed in batches, the first of 5,000, to be delivered next week (Al Dustour).

DUE TO higher exchange rates for the Swiss franc and the Deutsche mark against the dinar, the prices of drugs imported from Germany and Switzerland were recently increased. Sources at the Ministry of Health said the price increase was slight and did only reflect 50 per cent of actual change in the currency value (Al Aswag).

THE MINISTER of energy and natural resources said the decision to close the quarries in Ajloun was taken because they were not properly licensed and because they were causing environmental damages to the region. The minister said Ajlouni obtained licences for land reclamation from the Ministry of Agriculture, but as it turned out, they used it as a pretext to open quarries and sell stones (Al Ra'i).

THE JORDAN National Shipping Lines Company decided to purchase a new cargo vessel at a cost of \$6.25 million, bringing the number of vessels in its fleet to five. The company also intends to buy a sixth vessel before the end of this year to specifically transport bulk products. According to Yaser Al Tal, the company's general manager, the new vessel is a multi-purpose Brazilian-made ship, having a 7-year operational age and able to carry 15,000 tonnes. Purchased with financing from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank, the new vessel is the second carrier bought by the company this year. Named the Blue Horizon, the new vessel will be carrying phosphate and potash to Indian ports along with other leased ships. Mr. Al Tal pointed out that the company, now capitalised at JD 7 million, had made profits in excess of JD 15 million since it was set up in 1980. Asked about joint marine transport between Jordanian and Israeli ports, Mr. Al Tal said the matter was still not clear. However, he said that "if we could consolidate our current drive to reduce the Suez Canal fees and put enough incentives to marine freight companies in Aqaba, then the Israeli port's (activity) on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea will not have much effect on Aqaba (Al Ra'i).

Windows 95 may leave consumers breathless, confused

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Microsoft's new Windows 95 operating system, coming out Aug. 24 in the biggest global product launch in computer history, may leave the average personal computer user dazzled but also confused.

Microsoft, which makes the underlying software running 80 per cent of the world's personal computers, has refined this system to make it cleaner, faster and brighter, with a host of new capabilities.

Windows 95 users will have full "multitasking," or the ability to run two or more operations simultaneously, such as sending faxes while checking spelling on a report and remaining connected to an on-line network.

A reorganized "desktop" will make it easier to see what files are available, and this can be customised for different family members. Opening programmes and files will also be simplified, and getting rid of unwanted files will be as easy as dragging an icon to a "recycle" bin.

File names won't have to be limited to eight characters, as in the old system. So users can label their files "Letter to Mom" instead of "let mom.doc."

For one, much of the new software and hardware that

takes advantage of Windows

95 capabilities is not yet on the market. So "plug and play" may not work for some equipment and existing software may be no faster than on the current Windows 3.1 version.

Some computer buffs argue that Windows 95 is simply catching up with the operating system of Apple's Macintosh, which has had user-friendly features like a "trash can" and multitasking capabilities for a decade.

Meanwhile, for millions of

people with existing PCs and Windows software, the decision on upgrading is a difficult one.

Microsoft is offering the new software to existing Windows owners at under \$100, yet most users will face far higher costs in upgrading their systems.

For one, Windows 95 is greedy in its need for computer memory and hard disk storage space. Microsoft maintains the new software can be installed on computers

standard in the United States several years ago, with Intel 386 processors and four megabytes of RAM, or operating memory.

But reviewers who have tested the new system suggest the system works best with the newest computers on the market, with Pentium microchips, generous hard drives and eight to 16 megabytes of RAM. Upgrading these items could cost several hundred dollars.

Without a CD-ROM play-

er, users will need to juggle 13 floppy disks to install Windows 95.

Owners of older computers "would be best off not (upgrading) if they're happy with what they've got," says Gregg Keizer, an Oregon-based freelance writer specialising in computers.

"Any company staying on the cutting edge of technology will eventually have to use it," said Bob Walker, a business consultant with Advanced Systems, Inc. "It will be a necessity for any modern corporation. You may not have a choice."

Despite the questions, computer experts note that

Windows 95 users will have full "multitasking," or the ability to run two or more operations simultaneously, such as sending faxes while checking spelling on a report and remaining connected to an on-line network.

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Foreign Exchange Market Summary
(August 7 - August 11, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit rose sharply against other major currencies last week. It ended the week 2.66 per cent higher against the yen, 2.61 per cent higher against the mark, and 2.12 per cent against sterling.

The dollar rose more than a pfenning against the mark Monday upon renewed expectations that the Bundesbank might lower German interest rates at its meeting the following Thursday. Reports indicated that the dollar's rally against the mark accelerated after it broke resistance at 1.4030 marks.

The U.S. unit was little changed against other major currencies Tuesday, however. Traders were watching the U.S. Treasury three year note auction, the 1st leg of a \$42.5 billion treasury refunding, to verify whether Japan's deregulatory move to stimulate investment overseas will encourage Japanese investors' appetite for U.S. Treasuries. The dollar fell as markets were disappointed by the weak showing of Japanese investors, but it recovered later that day on hopes that Japanese buying will emerge in the next two legs of the refunding.

The dollar closed narrowly mixed against other major currencies Wednesday. Reports indicated that the 2nd leg of the U.S. Treasury auction was more than favourable. But auction results did not trigger dollar buying as traders remained on the sidelines ahead of a Bundesbank Council meeting and the 3rd leg of U.S. Treasury auction the following day.

The dollar surged against other major currencies Thursday. The U.S. unit rose after the release of the Producer Price Index showing that U.S. inflationary pressures remain subdued. The index was unchanged in July after dipping in June. The dollar's rally accelerated when stop losses surfaced. Reports indicated that the 3rd leg of U.S. Treasury auction attracted strong bidding, yet did not contribute to the dollar's rally. Meanwhile, traders were disappointed after Bundesbank Council members left official interest rates unchanged.

The dollar continued its strong rally against other major currencies at the end of the week. It rose on comments by a Bundesbank official, who said that banks had room to lower bids on the securities repurchase rate. In addition, rumours that hedge funds run by financier George Soros were placing bets on a higher dollar drove the U.S. unit higher. Meanwhile, analysts indicated that the regulatory move that the Japanese government took to stimulate investment overseas, the concerted intervention led by the Bank of Japan and the Fed to support the dollar, and dealers' expectations that the Bundesbank might ease its monetary policy soon, are the factors that were driving for a higher dollar.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4347 marks, 93.90 yen and at \$1.5715 to sterling.

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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: August 13, 1995Currency Bid Offer
U.S. Dollar 0.7060 0.7080
Sterling Pound 1.1080 1.1135
Deutsche Mark 0.4900 0.4925
Swiss Franc 0.5900 0.5930
French Franc 0.1424 0.1431
Japanese Yen 0.7506 0.7544
Dutch Guilder 0.4374 0.4390
Swedish Krona
Italian Lira
Belgian Franc

* Per 100

Interest and rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*
August 4 - 1995 August 11 - 1995Currency 1-Month (%) 1-Year (%) 1-Month (%) 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar 5.84 5.68 5.73 5.93
Sterling Pound 6.75 7.12 6.65 6.94
Deutsche Mark 4.31 4.35 4.37 4.43
Swiss Franc 2.62 2.75 2.75 2.93
French Franc 5.62 5.76 6.00 5.50

Dominique Wilkins leaves NBA to join Panathinaikos of Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Dominique Wilkins has left the Boston Celtics to sign with a professional team in Greece.

Panathinaikos Athens said Saturday it had signed the 2.03-metre (6-foot-8) forward. Press reports said Wilkins, 35, signed a two-year contract for \$7 million, the richest contract for a player outside the National Basketball Association.

Wilkins had two years remaining on his contract with the Celtics, but his contract contained a buyout clause.

Recently, Wilkins was involved in a dispute with the team over an \$8.4 million loan he claimed he was owed. Because of the NBA lockout, the team said he wasn't entitled to the money.

Celtics officials could not be reached for comment.

Panathinaikos and its archrival Olympiakos are Greece's

two major teams. In the last two seasons, Panathinaikos finished third in the European Championship behind Olympiakos.

Drafted in 1982 by Utah, Wilkins played more than 11 seasons with the Atlanta Hawks before being traded to the Los Angeles Clippers in February 1994 in exchange for Danny Manning.

His best season was 1985-86, when he led the NBA in scoring with 30.3 points a game.

In July 1994, Wilkins signed as a free agent with the Celtics but wasn't a success. Coach Chris Ford benched him early in the season, and Wilkins averaged just 17.8 points, his lowest average since his rookie season, and shot a career-low 42 per cent from the field.

World Athletics Championships

O'Sullivan, Pedroso set the record straight

GOTHENBURG (AP) — Smiling Sonia O'Sullivan set the tone at the world championships here on Saturday. It was time to prove a point and set the record straight.

O'Sullivan at last took the title many felt she should have won two years ago when she was swept aside by a Chinese clean-sweep.

Her 5,000m win on Saturday also earned her a slice of history as she became Ireland's first woman world champion.

The dramatic decline, however, of Qu Yuxia — who led in that 3,000m triumvirate ahead of O'Sullivan in 1993 — and the rest of Ma Junren's former force has worried many athletics commentators since.

O'Sullivan, who trains in London with a stable of world-class Kenyans, simply wanted to prove the point that she was world champion material.

"I did what I came here to do," she said. "Which was to bide her time before destroying double-seeking 10,000m champion Fernanda

Ribeiro of Portugal over a scintillating final 200m.

Cuban Ivan Pedroso also proved a point.

The 22-year-old led 1991 and 1993 gold medallist Mike Powell — nine years his elder — know that his reign as the world number one is over as he leapt 8.70m for the long jump gold.

He also let the International Amateur Athletic Federation bosses know that they may rule out his "world record," recorded just before the championships, but they cannot take his new-found status away from him.

Powell jumped 8.96 in Italy last month to overtake Powell's epic 1991 jump in Mexico but the IAAF are still grumbling over the presence of an official in front of the wind gauge, that windy day.

But actions tend to speak louder than words.

Powell's failure — he even allowed Jamaican 20-year-old James Beckford to edge past him on his final jump — again by a single centimetre — seemed to suggest the

times are changing in favour of fresher faces.

American Allen Johnson did the same in the 110m hurdles, proving the point to yesterday's man Roger Kingdom.

He later surge gave her a championship best 14 minutes 46.47 seconds while the Portuguese runner, all guts to O'Sullivan's grace, took silver ahead of Zohra Ouazziz of Morocco.

American joy over the hurdles — which returned the title to the nation that delighted in Greg Foster's wins in 1983, 1987 and 1991 — was not matched by the history-making sprint relay squad.

Unbeaten in the world championships and the holders of the Olympic title and world record, they thundered like schoolboys, losing in the heats following an abortive change-over between Jon Drummond and Theodore McCall.

Later, the British were run out of their semi-final, ending any chance that Linford Christie, who wrenched his hamstring as he was deposed in the 100m, might make a dramatic final-day return.

If the American performance seemed casual, Martin Fiz didn't.

The Spaniard — who shares his physical trainer with cycling legend Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner of the Tour de France — showed huge reserves of courage to win the marathon.

Dionicio Ceron of Mexico, the world's best for the last three years, kicked three kilometres from the end of an event that had turned into a two-horse race.

But European champion Fiz dug in despite a dangerous 15m back, crept up again and stormed past to 2:11min 41sec.

That time, it seems, will stand. The organisers — unlike the American relay — got it right this time.

They had allowed the women's event at the start of the championships to be run over a course that turned out to be 400m short of the stipulated 42,195.

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Torrence gets revenge; Morceli wins 1500m

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (AP) — Bitter Gwen Torrence got her revenge over Marlene Ottey as she

anchored the American sprint relay squad to gold here.

The race ended with a per-

fect head-to-head between the two, but Torrence — the 100m individual winner who was stripped of the 200m title

for running out of her lane — powered away from Ottey to win by three metres in a time of 42.12 sec.

Torrence did not give Ottey — who was awarded the 200m title in her place and then rubbed it in by calling the American a cheat — so much as a look as she crossed the finish with arms raised.

Russia, without the injured Irina Privalova, the individual 200m silver and 100m bronze medallist, bungled their baton changing and failed to finish.

The United States' only other win in the event came in 1987 at Rome.

Unbeatable Noureddine Morceli staked a claim to the title of all-time great as he sealed a hat-trick of 1,500m world titles.

The Algerian, unbeaten over the distance since the 1992 Olympics, produced a masterly display over the final lap to finish alone in 3min 33.73.

Burundian Venuste Niyongabo, hyped up as the great pretender, lost the silver on the line as the even younger Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco caught him in the straight, clocking 3:35.28.

Sprinter Donovan Bailey anchored the all-conquering Canadians to the 4x100m.

'Hitting soccer ball with head may sap mental skills'

NEW YORK (AP) — Soccer players who repeatedly use their heads to whack the ball risk losses in mental skills, says a study that found problems in athletes as young as teenagers.

Players who said they "beaded" the ball more than 10 times a game showed lower average scores than other players on tests of attention, concentration and overall mental functioning.

Evidence of harm from less frequent heading was inconsistent, suggesting that some other influence like proper technique might help protect against the effect, said researcher Adrienne Witol.

The study, which included 60 players from high school, college and a professional team, did not test children younger than 14. But Witol said children may be at risk because they have smaller bodies, weaker neck muscles and less experience in proper heading technique than older players.

The researchers did not assess what the lower scores on their tests meant for the daily lives of players.

They described their study as an initial sign that the effects of heading on the brain must be studied further.

In the meantime, Witol said in an interview that parents of young soccer players should not panic. "This is a preliminary study. You don't base a huge decision on whether or not soccer play is horribly dangerous and pull kids out based on one study," he said.

He added, however: "If I had a child, I would discourage him from heading the ball until I had more answers."

Witol is a neuropsychology fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the medical college of Virginia, which is part of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. She presented the study Saturday at the annual meeting of the American psychological association.

"I think Dr. Witol alerts us to a potential problem in this country with soccer and in particular, heading," commented Jeffrey T. Barth, chief of psychology at the University of Virginia medical school.

Torrence did not give Ottey — who was awarded the 200m title in her place and then rubbed it in by calling the American a cheat — so much as a look as she crossed the finish with arms raised.

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The effect on everyday life, how long the impairments last and even whether they really come from the impact with the ball rather than some other aspect of playing soccer must still be studied, he said.

He also noted that heading is not as common among children as among high school players. He said he would not be concerned about harm to elementary-school players.

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Relegated Crystal Palace, Leicester win on opening day

LONDON (AP) — Relegated pair Crystal Palace and Leicester made successful starts to their campaigns for a rapid return to the Premiership on Saturday but there was no such joy for Ipswich, who crashed at English First division new boys Birmingham.

Palace emerged from a summer of upheaval to clinch a nerve-racking 4-3 win over Barnsley in an exciting clash at Selhurst Park.

Palace's relegation from the Premiership last season was followed by the departure of manager Alan Smith and a series of big-name stars.

The new season started badly, though, when Steve Davis fired Barnsley in front of 12 minutes.

But captain and Republic of Ireland star Ray Houghton levelled after quarter of an hour. Northern Ireland striker Iain Dowie scored either side of the break, and Dean Gordon who wants to leave the club netted a fourth after 60 minutes.

Adrian Vivash, Port-south's top scorer last term, got this season off to a bright start by netting twice in the 4-2 win over Southend.

Pompey's other goals came from a Steve Tilson own goal

and Jason Rees while Andy Thomson got both for Southend.

Dave Gilbert and Chris Malkin scored debut goals to help West Brom and Millwall to victory.

Gilbert, signed this week from Grimsby, gave West Brom a 1-0 home win over Charlton while his former club were punished by ex-Tranmere man Malkin, who helped Millwall to a 2-1 victory.

Alex Rae got the Londoners off the mark from the penalty spot while Steve Livingstone pulled one back for Grimsby after Malkin had struck.

Derek Payne and Richard Johnson ensured Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett had a fruitless return to his former club Watford.

Welsh international Nathan Blake got the Blades' goal in a 2-1 defeat.

Adrian Williams' late effort earned Reading a 1-1 draw at Stoke, who had gone ahead through Ray Wallace.

And Mark Brennan scored twice as Oldham overwhelmed new boys Huddersfield, promoted via the second division play-offs.

Former Manchester United sharp shooter Mark Robins netted a 69th-minute

Agassi breezes through in soaring temperatures

CINCINNATI (AP) — Andre Agassi shed his black-lotus Saturday as temperatures on court soared to 43 degrees centigrade, staying cool enough to beat Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-4, 6-2, for a place in the final of the \$1.8-million ATP championship.

Agassi, the eight seed and world number one, dispensed with his usual image-driven black shoes and socks, replacing them with white models for the match, his third in as many tournaments.

The American was red-hot in the sweltering summer heat as he dismantled the game of 13th seed Enqvist in a battle of the fittest.

"Hey, I came out as prepared as possible for the conditions," said Agassi, who has won titles in Washington and Montreal in recent weeks. "Black socks and shoes don't make it in these temperatures, so I switched."

"I peaked at the right time against a dangerous player. I hope that I can keep that up for the final."

The winner will face the victor of the contest between defending champion Michael Chang, seeded fourth, and number eight German Michael Stich.

Agassi ran his 1995 record against Swedes to 8-1 and his

overall mark to 80-9 since the U.S. Open last year.

Agassi has been formidable on hardcourts, with his

only two losses from 42 matches on the surface coming to world number two in the final of the Acura Classic against Conchita Martinez of Spain.

The second seeded Martínez beat unseeded Indonesian Yayan Basuki 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) in the day's second

game of the opening set and

again in the first and fifth of the second as he secured his victory in 69 minutes.

"He didn't miss and was running me everywhere," said Enqvist, who has won three titles on three different surfaces so far this year. "I was like a car without an engine."

There was little drama in the semi-final, which Agassi wrapped up with a minimum of effort. He broke the 21-year-old Enqvist in the fifth game of the opening set and

again in the first and fifth of the second as he secured his victory in 69 minutes.

"He didn't miss and was running me everywhere," said Enqvist, who has won three titles on three different surfaces so far this year. "I was like a car without an engine."

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995 11

Baseball legend Mantle dies at 63

DALLAS (AP) — Mickey Mantle, whose mammoth swing and country-boy charm made him a larger-than-life hero to generations of fans, died early Sunday from liver cancer. He was 63.

The New York Yankees hall of famer died at 2:11 a.m. EDT (0610 GMT), Baylor University Medical Center said.

Mantle received a liver transplant on June 8. On

July 13, it was discovered that his liver cancer had spread to his right lung, and he was readmitted to the hospital on Aug. 4.

Three days later, it was found that the cancer had spread to include more of his lungs and abdomen despite intensive chemotherapy.

"This is the most aggressive cancer that anyone on the medical team has ever seen," said Goran Klimmalm, director of transplant services at Baylor.

"But the hope in this is that Mickey left behind a legacy. Mickey and his team have already made an enormous impact by increasing the awareness of organ donation. This may become Mickey's ultimate home run."

Many of Mantle's family members, friends and former teammates from his glory day of the Yankees visited him in the days before his death, talking about the times he led them to seven World Series

championships.

Mantle, whose strength helped him 536 home runs, had his health take a downward turn in the middle of last week, and his condition was downgraded to serious.

Blond, handsome, graceful and a muscular with power from both sides of the plate, The Mick was perfect heir to Joe DiMaggio in center field at Yankee Stadium.

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Mickey Mantle

outcome of liver tests a few months before being admitted to the Betty Ford Clinic.

"The doctor called me into his office and said, 'Mickey, your liver is still working, but it has healed itself so many times that before long you're just going to have one big scar for a liver.' Eventually, you'll need a new liver."

Mantle said he would start some mornings with the "breakfast of champions" — a big glass filled with a shot of brandy, some kahlua and cream.

"Billy Martin and I used to drink them all the time, and I named the drink after us," he said. "Sometimes when I was in New York... and Billy and I were together, we would stop into my restaurant around 10 in the morning and the bartender would dump all the ingredients into a blender. After one drink I was off and running...unless I had a business engagement, I'd often keep drinking until I couldn't drink anymore."

Mantle was the only male member of his family to live past 41. His father died at that age from Hodgkin's disease, a lymphatic cancer; his grandfather died at 40 with the same ailment, as did an uncle. One of Mantle's sons, Billy, also had a long struggle with the disease, then died of a heart attack last year at age 36.

"Mantle was driving force on Yankees teams that won 12 AL pennants. His 18 home runs in World Series play is a record that still stands."

Born in Oklahoma and named for his father's favorite ballplayer — hall of famer Mickey Cochrane — Mantle never lost the soft twang or easy smile that made him popular throughout his career, and beyond. Mantle retired at age 37 after the 1968 season.

"Nobody was gifted with more physical talent," former teammate Tony Kubek said. "He could dominate any area of the game."

It was his life outside the game, however, that he

came to lament. A fixture on the Manhattan nightclub scene with Yankee teammates Whitey Ford and Billy Martin, Mantle acknowledged his lifetime of drinking in a first-person article for Sports Illustrated magazine in April 1994.

He described seeing his doctor and learning the

Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

U.S. takes world record while Aussies outraged

Record holder fails to reach final

ATLANTA (AFP) — The first world record in the 1996 Olympic pool came here Saturday at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships but had to share the spotlight with Australian stars they were

cheated.

The United States 4 x 100m freestyle relay of David Fox, Joe Hudepohl, Jon Olsen and Gary Hall won in three minutes, 15.11 seconds, smashing the world mark of 3:16.53 set by the U.S. gold medal relay at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"We can all go faster. We've got a 3:14 in us easy next summer," said Hudepohl. "It was a great way to break in the pool. We let the world know this is our relay and no one is going to take it away from us."

For surged ahead on the first leg in 49.32 seconds and Hudepohl increased the lead by following in 49.11. Olsen had the fastest leg next in 48.17 and Hall finished the job in 48.51.

"We thought breaking 3:16 would be good," Olsen said. "This is amazing."

Australians were stunned, but not at the world mark. They were wondering about their second disqualification in as many days under questionable circumstances over a stroke violation.

Australia's Susan O'Neill was triumphant, then disqualified, then reinstated, in the 100m butterfly, taking gold only because her beset

friend and roommate, Samantha Riley, had been disqualified Friday in the 100m breaststroke.

"Charly Mallory, the meet referee, said that because of the controversy over the other disqualification, they wanted to make sure the violation was seen by somebody else," said Australia Swimming president Evelyn Dill-Macky. "They asked two other judges. They had not seen it, so they decided not to pursue it."

O'Neill, whose winning time of 59.58 was a Commonwealth record, said she did not think she would have been given the gold had Riley not been banned earlier.

"I'm beginning to think the Australian team is being picked on," O'Neill said. "I couldn't believe it was happening. I thought they must be out to get us after what happened with Samantha. It's pretty fishy it was two of us in two days for little things. And I did nothing wrong."

O'Neill learned it was disqualified when it appeared on the scoreboard, but neither she nor any official told the Australian team why. Only later was she told it was for dipping her shoulder to gain an edge at the turn.

"I couldn't believe it. I was extremely angry," she said. "I was thinking of next year. I can't wait to come back here next year. I was so angry."

Perkins knew when he missed 10 days of training with an illness that he would never produce peak performances at the Pan Pacific Championships.

But the Australian distance star came here anyway, figuring the opportunity to race in the 1996 Olympic pool was worth the disappointments the meet has produced.

"No matter how I swim, the experience I have gained was worth it," Perkins said.

"I thought about pulling out. I decided it was more important to check everything out. We wanted to see how everything works so it's not a surprise next year."

"I know what the Olympic pool is like, where the village is and what security will be like. If you're prepared for it, you won't get frustrated and it won't affect your performance."

Perkins set world freestyle records last year at 400, 800 and 1,500 metres. But the world 1,500m champion was edged for gold by countryman Dan Kowalski in the 800m final. Then Perkins failed to qualify for the 400m final.

"It's not going to cause me to give up or something," he said. "All along I have known next year is a different story. I've no doubt I'll be ready for the Olympics."

Perkins, who turns 22 on Monday, was bed-ridden in late June and struggled with breathing patterns even when he returned to the water.

"My training hasn't been what I wanted," Perkins said.

"It was 10 days I could ill afford. I was on the edge of just barely doing what I needed to make it. But the bottom line is Atlanta is a year away."

John Carew, who coaches Perkins, was surprised the Brisbane resident was as slow as 3:54.67 in the 400m heats, trailing countrymen Kowalski and Glen Housman.

"He was working. That was just it," Carew said. "I'm sure he will come back for the Olympics."

"I have no worries he can get it back again. He is sensible enough to know what he has to do to get back here."

Part of his task will be to fight off Kowalski, who has emerged at this meet with three gold medals and one silver entering the final day.

Hill wins Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (AP) — Damon Hill started from the pole and led all the way to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday, and reigning champion Michael Schumacher's hot pursuit ended three laps from the finish as he coasted off the track.

Hill, 34, who needed a win to protect his job, won his third Formula One race of the season and gained on the German Schumacher, current points leader. Hill's victory was good for 10 points, putting him at 45 points, only 11 behind Schumacher, who has won five races this season.

"It was never over until he (Schumacher) dropped out," Hill said. "It was a nice relief, but I think we would have beaten him if he'd kept on going."

Hill's Williams Renault teammate, David Coulthard, was second, 33.398 seconds behind.

In third place was Gerhard Berger of Austria in a Ferrari, one lap behind Hill.

Schumacher's Benetton teammate, Johnny Herbert of Britain, was fourth, followed by Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany driving a Sauber Ford.

Sixth was Olivier Panis of France, driving a Ligier Mugen Honda.

The accident-free race looked in its middle stages like a hot duel between the two Britons and Schumacher, who crashed in the British novice, and to my Grand Prix July 16 when Hill tried to pass his German rival.

Schumacher, 26, who was on a working honeymoon after his recent marriage and who's reported transferring to Ferrari next season, was as little as one second behind Hill two-thirds into the race.

But after his third pit stop on lap 48, he never got quite as close, though on lap 69 he was 9 seconds behind Hill and picking up a second each lap.

Driver Championship standings:

1. Michael Schumacher 56 pts
2. Damon Hill 45
3. Jean Alesi 32
4. David Coulthard 29
5. Johnny Herbert 28
6. Gerhard Berger 25
7. Olivier Panis 8
8. Rubens Barrichello 7
9. Heinz-Harald Frentzen 6
10. Eddie Irvine 6
11. Mika Hakkinen 5
12. Mark Blundell 5
13. Martin Brundle 3
14. Jean-Christophe Boullion 2
15. Gianni Morbidelli 1
16. Aguri Suzuki 1

Constructors:

1. Benetton-Renault 74 pts
2. Williams-Renault 68
3. Ferrari 57
4. Jordan-Peugeot 13
5. McLaren-Mercedes 10
6. Sauber-Ford 9
7. Footwork-Hart 1

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Both vulnerable. North deals:

North-South	EAST
♦ K 10	♦ K 7
♦ K Q	♦ K Q 10 8
♦ Q 8 7 6 5 2 4	♦ Q 9 8 6 4 3 2
♦ A 5	♦ A 6 3
♦ J 9 4	♦ 7 6 3 2
SOUTH	WEST
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4
♦ 4 3	♦ 5
♦ 4 ♠	♦ 4 ♠
Pass	Pass

The bidding:

North: East: South: West:
3 NT Pass 4 0 Pass
4 4 Pass 6 5 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

Hill: Potts: recommended it up to him in his advice to his assistant, Capt. Hastings: "Use the little gray cells." Logical reasoning will often point the way to the winning play.

North-South reached their second-best contract — six no trump, so there would have been unbeatable and South might have considered bidding the contract, with the six diamonds. North also showed interest by cue-bidding hearts, confirming good diamond support.

North led the queen, so West

had

the

right to gain from that lead.

By a process of elimination that left spades as the lowest card points in the West hand, it was obvious East held nothing. One possibility was to hope East held the ten of hearts and attack that suit, but even if that were the case East would have no entry to cash the heart.

The club hand looked as unimpressive. It was too much to hope that West held the queen, so there was nothing to gain from that lead.

By a process of elimination that left spades as the lowest card points in the West hand, it was obvious East held nothing. One

Jordanian popular support for Saddam has dwindled

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordanians who embraced Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a long-awaited saviour during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis now blame him for impoverishing his people.

"It's the Iraqis I care for, not the regime... in the early period I supported Saddam but now no longer, because his people cannot find food to eat and he has pulled Iraq 100 years backward," said Subhi Halabi, owner of a clothing shop in central Amman.

Some Jordanians say the defection to Jordan of President Saddam's son-in-law and mastermind of Iraq's military programmes, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, exposed deep cracks within Iraq's ruling circles.

Gen. Hassan's remarks on Saturday that he had lost hope of changing the Saddam government from within have reinforced misgivings many Jordanians had about the man they once loved as the only Arab leader who dared to fire missiles at Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hizbullah attacks Israeli position

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Hizbullah guerrillas rocketed the Israeli position of Dabshe in the "security zone" of South Lebanon on Sunday for the second day running, pro-Israeli sources said. They lobbed several mortars and rockets into the Israeli-occupied zone prompting Israeli artillery to retaliate while Israeli helicopters made reconnaissance flights, sources close to Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said. Hizbullah, in a statement from Beirut, claimed the attack left several casualties and said they destroyed fortifications Dabshe. An Israeli helicopter was seen evacuating the casualties, the militia said. There was no independent confirmation of the claim. Three Israeli soldiers, including an officer, were wounded on Saturday when Hizbullah guerrillas launched a mortar attack on Dabshe, which commands access to the central part of the security zone.

Clergymen clash over organ transplants

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's two highest Islamic authorities, the mufti and the sheikh of Al Azhar Mosque, disagreed on the principle of organ transplants in the government daily Al Akhbar on Sunday. The mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, issued a "fatwa" or religious ruling that Islam allowed "transplanting the liver from a clinically dead person to a fatally ill patient." He based the ruling on the principle that a patient is dead if the brain and vital organs have stopped functioning even if the heart is still beating. But the imam of Al Azhar, Sheikh Gad Al Hafiz Ali Gad Al Hafiz, differed with the mufti, implicitly calling such a transplant murder. "As long as the heart is functioning the person is not dead. Clinical death is not complete death. So his life must not be ended by removing an organ even if his condition is hopeless," the imam told Al Akhbar. Egypt's mufti and the sheikh of Al Azhar have issued contradictory religious rulings on several issues, most notably on female circumcision. Tantawi ruled that circumcision could be banned if doctors advocated it while Gad Al Hafiz said the practice was a religious duty that must be followed.

Turkish troops kill 23 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed 23 rebel Kurdish guerrillas in several clashes in southeastern Turkey, an official statement said on Sunday. Thirteen members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and a government soldier were killed in a clash near Mazzig town in the eastern province of Tunceli on Saturday, a statement from the regional governor's office said. Ten rebels were killed in clashes in southeastern provinces of Bingol, Bitlis and Batman on Saturday, the regional governor's office said. 27 rebels were killed in clashes with the security forces. More than 17,500 people have been killed in the PKK's war for independence or autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

Nubian museum to open in Egypt in mid-1996

CAIRO (AFP) — The first museum of Nubian antiquities will open in south Egypt in mid 1996, a decade after construction on it was begun, an official with the Egyptian Antiquities Agency told AFP on Sunday. The museum, located in the town of Aswan, will contain 5,000 artifacts discovered in Egyptian Nubia from the pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Christian and Islamic eras. Ramzi Neghi, the director of Nubian antiquities, said: "Construction of the museum and its garden of 43 hectares (106 acres) began in 1986 and a total cost of 60 million Egyptian pounds (\$15 million)." Neghi said. The garden will display aspects of Nubian life, including a traditional baked-mud house, models of the Nile cataracts and of the Aswan High Dam, he added. Aswan, Egypt's southernmost city, became the centre of its Nubian population after the completion in 1972 of the dam creating Lake Nasser, which submerged the Nubians' traditional lands extending into Sudan. Also known as the land of Kush, Nubia was a semi-independent kingdom during Egypt's pharaonic era. Nubia boasts the two temples of Abu Simbel built by Ramses II (1300-1234 B.C.), which were moved in the 1960 to avoid the rising lake.

New York airports on high alert

NEW YORK (R) — New York's three airports went on high-security alert after receiving information from law enforcement officers, officials said on Sunday. The heightened alert followed a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warning of a possible attack by "Islamic radicals," the Long Island newspaper Newsday said. The Port Authority — which manages New York city's John F. Kennedy and La Guardia airports and the Newark airport — would not confirm that report. "At some point on Saturday, there was communication between our agency and the FAA, and a decision was made to elevate security at the airports," authority spokeswoman Joy Faber said. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Arlene Salac said information from law enforcement agencies prompted the high-security alert. She would not confirm the Newsday report.

"The regime has lost its credibility, because Saddam did not present anything... nothing positive has happened over the last five years," said Husam Lunfi, an employee.

Jordanians and Palestinians were once the most enthusiastic supporters of the Iraqi president, staging spontaneous demonstrations of solidarity in both Amman and Israeli-occupied West Bank towns after his invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Riyad Shorbaji, a doctor, said: "All of us supported him at first, pleased he would restore Palestine but our support has gone when we saw how the Iraqi people were unjustly treated and imposed."

Amjad Al Ramini, a Jordanian living in Saudi Arabia, said it was time President Saddam was overthrown "because the whole world was against him and there was no reason anymore for him to stay... economic conditions necessitate he is changed."

Sultan Abu Zahra, a trader, said Jordanians ecstatically supported Presi-

dent Saddam during the Gulf war "because he exploited their emotions to silence them over his occupation of Kuwait... by firing a few useless Scuds they believed he was the leader who would rid them of Israel."

"The whole attitude of Jordan has changed and the Iraqi regime has lost favour, you only need to see his people sleeping in the streets."

Some blame President Saddam for economic hardships in Jordan.

"What Saddam did in Kuwait was not appropriate in its timing and today with the economic pressures on Iraq and its impact on Jordan, all this has lessened peoples support," said Rafea Mahmoud.

"What have we gained from the Gulf war?... It brought us poverty and calamities and the hatred of other countries," said Ouni Saleem.

President Saddam's few remaining admirers say a comprehensive judgment on his actions will only come in decades, after the secrets of the Gulf crisis are fully unveiled.



AIR FORCE GRADUATION: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday attends the graduation ceremony of a batch of air force officers at the Command and Staff College. The graduating students included officers from the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Pakistan and Malaysia as well as Jordan. The ceremony was also attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials (Armed Forces photo).

Iraqi refugees doubt defector can topple Saddam Hussein

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Iraqi refugees said Sunday they were suspicious of the high-ranking army officer who defected from Saddam Hussein's inner circle and doubted he could rally enough support to undermine the Iraqi strongman.

"I'm sure that Saddam will be able to contain this family crisis," said George Daoud, an Iraqi refugee who is a civil engineer.

Hussein Kamel Al-Majid, President Saddam's son-in-law and the man who headed Iraq's weapons programme, told a news conference Saturday that he was in contact with Iraqi opposition inside and outside Iraq as part of an effort to topple President Saddam.

But Iraq's many opposition groups have long suffered from internal feuding and have been unable to build a united front against President Saddam. In addition, refugees said General Hassan was responsible for many of the abuses carried out under President Saddam's rule, and therefore lacked credibility as an opposition leader.

According to the newspaper, Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair suggested he would extend other powers of the Shin Bet to use increased force against suspects on condition they stopped shaking prisoners.

Mr. Ben-Yair said shaking was illegal, based on expert medical opinion that it could lead to death or brain damage, Haaretz reported.

Officials from the attorney general's office and the Justice Ministry had no immediate comment on the report.

According to Haaretz, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Police Minister Moshe Shahal had Shin Bet in their claim that violent jerking is useful when interrogating prisoners about planning attacks against Israelis, Haaretz said.

Israel relaxed interrogation rules for its secret police last year after Palestinian militants began a series of deadly suicide bombings against Israelis. Special powers were granted for three months and have been extended three times.

In the late 1980s, a state commission ruled moderate physical pressure was permissible during interrogations of suspected "terrorists." Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists have long criticised the Landau commission's guidelines as a license to torture.

Ten days ago an Israeli ministerial committee extended by a week the powers of the Shin Bet secret police to use increased force.

The ministerial committee is scheduled to meet this week to clarify interrogation methods the Shin Bet may employ. But Haaretz quoted a justice official as saying that Mr. Ben-Yair's ruling on shaking meant the committee would have to rule out at least that method.

The Egyptian press and human rights groups sharply attacked Saudi Arabia for punishing Mr. Khalifa.

name. "Hassan is responsible for a lot of killings and executions of Iraqis and he is just another face of the coin to Saddam."

Jordan gave asylum to Gen. Hassan, his brother Saddam, their wives, children and army escorts after they fled to Amman on Tuesday. Altogether they numbered about 30.

They join more than 30,000 Iraqis who have fled their homeland to Jordan in the aftermath of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait.

Jordan, which depends on Iraq for its oil supplies, has not allowed Iraqi exiles to use the Kingdom as a base to rally opposition against President Saddam. It is unlikely that the defectors will be permitted to use the refugees to build an anti-Saddam front.

Geo. Hassan, a confidant of President Saddam for nearly two decades, said Saturday that he wanted to remove his father-in-law from power in order to end Iraq's isolation and turn the country into a "modern state."

But one Iraqi refugee, a former university professor who's now a waiter at an Amman restaurant, said Gen. Hassan "did not offer a clear programme to us and he did not even mention that he was considering the liber-

ation of Iraq or respecting human rights."

"I beg King Hussein not to protect Hussein Kamel," said the 65-year-old Iraqi as he sipped his coffee at an Amman coffee shop. "Hussein Kamel is as evil as Saddam."

Some Iraqi refugees were also critical of the United States and other countries for welcoming the defectors, but not taking steps to lift the international sanctions that have impoverished Iraq's 18 million people since they were imposed five years ago.

"I am surprised to see the whole world interested in the defections, but nobody cares for the more important issue of the plight of Iraqis under the sanctions," said an Iraqi taxi driver, who identified himself only as Mohammad.

Many Iraqis said they believed Gen. Hassan fled Iraq due to family disputes, and felt President Saddam had begun to narrow the circle around him in favour of his sons, Odai and Qusai, and some of his half-brothers.

Gen. Hassan said Saturday, there was a power struggle within the ruling family. But he claimed his reason for seeking President Saddam's ouster was to "make the Iraqi people happy, end their problems and continued wars and help bring stability to the country."

Egyptian sentenced to 4,000 lashes in S. Arabia

CAIRO (AP) — Amnesty International says that an Egyptian national, Mohamed Ali Sayyid, has been flogged 3,400 times as part of a 4,000-lash sentence given for theft by a Saudi court.

Egyptian human rights officials said Sunday they were checking the report, obtained over the weekend from the London-based Amnesty.

The Amnesty report said Mr. Sayyid, who is in his 30s, was believed arrested in 1991 and had been denied family visits and legal representation since. The exact nature of the theft charges was not known.

The report quoted former prisoners in Al Qassim province as saying Mr. Sayyid was being subjected to 50 lashes every two weeks and also was serving a seven-year prison term.

Amnesty said the floggings were administered in a market place by a policeman using a metre-long bamboo cane.

Each flogging session is said to leave Mr. Sayyid with bruised or bleeding buttocks and unable to sleep or sit for three or four days afterwards," the report said.

On the other hand, a Somal radio station backing Gen. Aideed's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USCSNA) faction.

Three other people were also wounded in southern Mogadishu on Sunday when the Wardhigley Islamic Court, run by Murusadeh religious men, attacked and dismantled a roadblock mounted by gunmen. The court security man was

conflicting reasons given for the breakout, with one report saying that police officers on duty were given a huge bribe to let the prisoners out, while another alleged that the prisoners' families had threatened to kill the policemen's families in the city if they intervened to stop the breakout.

The escapes apparently

passed through the heavily guarded Mogadishu seaport, with the guards letting them through to the port's main gate.

Ex-Hamas members establish political party

GAZA (Agencies) — Five former members of the United Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, announced in Gaza on Sunday the formation of a new political group partly funded by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Mahmoud Abdu Dan, head of the new Islamic National Al Massar movement and also an officer in the self-rule authority's secret police, told a news conference his party rejected violence but did not recognise Israel's existence.

Mr. Abu Dan said the 1993 Israel-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord was not fully implemented and also that the railroad to nowhere will have any impact in a city where the car is king. The 20-mile line through southern Los Angeles cost \$950 million to build — three times more than originally estimated — and opened more than a year behind schedule. It has been criticised as the railroad to nowhere as it does not carry passengers to the downtown business area and stops short of Los Angeles International Airport, where a station had originally been planned. The idea was scrapped due to cost overruns.

"They're going to open this thing with great fanfare, and I'm delighted to have it open, but I don't believe there's going to be anyone to ride because it doesn't go anywhere," said one of the line's strongest critics, Los Angeles City councilwoman Ruth Galanter.

He told reporters that while he had left Hamas "others do not have this courage. By the emergence of such an Islamic movement, the chance will be created for those who do not have the courage to separate."

Hamas leads Palestinian opposition to the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal. Militants have killed scores of Israelis, most in suicide attacks, since the accord.

Mr. Abu Dan said the new party was partly funded by the PNA but did not disclose by how much.

Palestinians said they doubted the new party would make a dent in support for Hamas.

Four other ex-members of Hamas attended the press conference with Mr. Abu Dan.

"We will respect the rule of the Palestinian Authority," he said.

"There are others in Hamas who share our opinions. Some will come and join us," said Mr. Abu Dan, who spent five years in Israeli prisons for his activities on behalf of Hamas.

The movement includes the introduction of Sharia law, the removal of Jewish settlements on occupied land and Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

All the members of the movement are former Hamas members, Mr. Abu Dan said.

Abu Dan, 34, is a former member of the Izedine Al Qassam, the military wing of Hamas. He left Hamas a few months ago and joined the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Sources close to the PNA said Yasser Arafat was backing the group in hopes of persuading Hamas to join the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Mr. Abu Dan said the party had not decided whether it would run in elections for a Palestinian self-rule council.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995

Column 10

UNESCO — approves temple light show project

PARIS (AFP) — UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has given the go-ahead for Indonesia to stage a controversial spectacle close to an ancient Buddhist temple at Borobudur, in central Java, project officials said here Saturday. The seven-person committee, chaired by Gerard Bolla, a deputy director general of the world cultural organisation and also an expert on the 9th-century temple, finally agreed to the Son et Lumière project after an exhaustive study lasting several months. However the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation demanded guarantees that the spectacle would not harm the monument or the close environment in any way. It authorised two sessions of 45 minutes each day in front of audiences of many not more than 500 people — although the number could later be raised to 2,000 — for a total of 200 days per year during the dry season, the official said. It also demanded that the text written for the spectacle avoid any terms that could cause offence to Buddhists. An earlier version of the project presented in January gave rise to strong objections by the Heritage Committee. The Indonesian delegation, headed by the director-general for tourism, Andi Mappi Sammeng, held extensive talks over several weeks with UNESCO experts.

King Hussein grants 100 days to the project that is to be held in the dry season. The project is to be funded by the government and the king will be present at the opening ceremony. The king has granted a 100-day permit for the project to be held in the dry season. The project is to be funded by the government and the king will be present at the opening ceremony.

LOS ANGELES (R) — Los Angeles welcomed a new commuter rail line on Saturday with a trumpet fanfare, rock music by the Beach Boys and political speeches — but critics doubted the "railroad to nowhere" will have any impact in a city where the car is king. The 20-mile line through southern Los Angeles cost \$950 million to build — three times more than originally estimated — and opened more than a year behind schedule. It has been criticised as the railroad to nowhere as it does not carry passengers to the downtown business area and stops short of Los Angeles International Airport, where a station had originally been planned. The idea was scrapped due to cost overruns.

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